





## Oriental gift shops of Amman carry onlooker to another age

By Kofi Attah  
Special to The Star

JORDAN IS a treasure trove for handicrafts. These represent the essence of what is traditional and valuable in a society. Indeed many street shops today exhibit what is best of the past. Especially for tourists, these little shops are a goldmine to learn about the handicrafts and handmade industry in the country.

Luckily, Jordan like the rest of the Arab world has a good number of talented artisans, painters, pottery makers, sculptors, glass-makers and quilters.

There are plenty of these side shops in downtown Amman, some actually engage in handicraft-making while others only sell them.

However, all are glad to help promote Jordan in this unique field.

To discover the magnificence, the treasure and the warmth of Jordan and its craftswork, a short walk downtown will give you a firsthand look at traditional folklore.

The "Essa Mda'ena Oriental Souvenir Shop" was established 20 years ago when Mr Essa Mohammed Mda'ana, a hide and skin dealer, decided to promote Jordan's Arab-Islamic crafts through rugs, carpets and quilts. He put his golden ideas to work, not only promoting Jordan's arts and crafts but also in contributing his bit to reducing unemployment by engaging the services of local artisans, especially the womenfolk.

Mda'ana now employs a dozen people and several

women who weave and knit at home on a contract basis in Madaba. "We are really dedicated to our job. We want to export Jordan through rugs and carpets," Mda'ana said.

His work includes distinctly patterned Middle East pillows, prayer rugs, carpets and soft bags in deep rich color. "I love colors. I love what I do here," Mda'ana, in a soft tone, revealed. Some of his attractive carpets are found in the Ka'ba at the Al Haram mosque in Mecca Al Mukaramah, and in European homes through his French and British customers.

The best of oriental carpets, hand woven woolen bags of high quality can cost from JD 5 up to JD 100.

King Talal Street may be noisy, yet it is here where the real thing happens, as it is lined with street shops, bazaars, coffee shops etc. For many Jordanians and most tourists, the real compass with Amman is an informal, carefree stroll where looking around gift shops becomes irresistible. This is the case with the little but cosy "Al Faiha Bazaar" which is run by a dynamic young Jordanian, Musa Al Zoughoul. The Bazaar displays what can be taken home from Jordan. A small shop with plenty of oriental souvenirs ranging from *Alsaif*, the Arab sword in copper or gold plated, and a symbol of a glorious part, to the scale model bedouin home of all sizes decorated with Arab inspired designs, dresser mirrors framed in gilded squares.

Al Faiha Bazaar attracts American, Belgian and English tourists, daily. Al Zoughoul, the young and dynamic manager



Downtown Amman could be the tourists hunting ground

who created the bazaar five years ago says "it's a source of pride to sell gifts and mementos of your heritage to the world. You know Arabs are rich in culture." Al Faiha is in the heart of King Talal Street.

A few meters away is Bazaar Al Shami that has a rich concentration of oriental gifts with ancient and rare Jordanian handicrafts. *Hookahs*, made from the best glass, with its long tube to draw smoke, along with its psychedelic pattern, is a wonder for any watcher.

On sale too is a variety of handmade Near East metal, silver, leather and wooden items that can only be described as captivating. One of those reflects the sand glass from Aqaba together with designs of animals and other images.

"I try to do things a little different from others," Mr Firas Al Shami, the owner declared. Other gift items include Arab classic musical instruments such as lutes and traditional drums with a modern touch.

If you hate the noisy crowd, about two or three kilometers away from the bustling pedestrian on King Talal Street you will get to Jabal Luweibdeh. Not far from the French Cultural Center you can walk into a

real world of Arab oriental souvenirs. "Khayyam Bazaar offers the visitor a wide variety of prestigious and high class souvenirs, all under one roof. Rugs, cushions hand blown glass, silver jewelry from Morocco, Iraq, Egypt and Jordan are all there. In short everything from the Arab world can be admired at a glance.

"I'm very functional" says the gentle and soft spoken manager of the bazaar. The shop has over 60 different items including hand blown glass. Mr Taysir Zeinab says "the trade of hand blown glass dates as far back as 2000 years ago." You can wonder at the sight of camels carved from durable olive trees, raffia trays from Jordanian villages and copper trays from Syria and Morocco. Unique handcrafted Egyptian silver ornaments and seashells carvings with inscription of verses from the Koran are also available.

The bazaar was established in 1960 to assist gift-givers find "the riches of the Arab world in a twinkling of an eye" says Mr Zeinab.

## Di and Dodi are likely to become talk of town from now on

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cally, starting with photographs of father, son and princess vacationing aboard the Fayed yacht in the Mediterranean. On that occasion, Diana held an impromptu news conference—speedboat to speedboat—with photographers and reporters tailing her, during which she promised a "surprise" announcement.

That was followed over the weekend by more photographs showing the princess and Dodi vacationing together, minus the father.

All the tabloids had the same story—that this was no mere friendship but a serious romance. It was no coincidence, if the past is any guide—simultaneous tabloid publication of such Diana stories generally is orchestrated by an authorized "friend."

But only one tabloid, the Mirror, quoted her directly, though the quote was attributed to the "friends." "I just love his gentleness, his kindness and his almost dull way of living," the paper said friends said Di said of Fayed. "For someone like me, who has lived a gold-fish-bowl type of existence, I can't tell you how comforting this is. I like the way he sends flowers. I like the way he conducts himself, not only with me but with women in general."

The women in general have included a variety of beauties, among them Brooke Shields, Britt Ekland, actress Valerie Perrine, Tina Sinatra and American model Suzanne Gregard, to whom Fayed was married for eight months in 1986.

His "dull way of living" includes two Ferraris, at least one vintage Rolls-Royce, a \$23 million yacht, a Sikorsky helicopter, a Gulfstream jet, a castle in the Scottish Highlands and other homes in Switzerland, New York, Du Geneva, Genoa and, of course, London. Last Thursday night he reportedly had dinner, brought in on silver platters for the two of them at his apartment across from Hyde Park. (His family owns the building, along with a slew of other buildings in Mayfair, one of the world's most expensive neighborhoods.) She then flew off to Bosnia to promote her favorite cause: *Landmines*, refusing to comment on anything but land mines.

Dodi Fayed's primary business is Allied Stars, which helps finance movies, including "Chariots of Fire" and "Hook."

Prince Charles, 48, and Diana were divorced a year ago. Until the Di and Dodi story broke, the big royal story concerned Charles's efforts to win public acceptance of his relationship with, and possible marriage someday to, Camilla Parker Bowles, his longtime lover.

The last episode in that saga found Archbishop of Canterbury George Carey saying that Camilla's divorce, since her ex-husband is not dead, would be incompatible with Charles's role, were he to become king as "Supreme Governor" of the Church of England. Indeed, he said, a Charles-Camilla marriage would cause a "crisis."

There are no such obstacles to a Di-Dodi marriage, should the royal soap opera next bend that way.

LA Times-Washington Post News Service

## Errata



● The Swiss Educational Center is spelled thus and not "Swiss" as it was published in *The Star* (7 August 1997). The Swiss center has started its educational programs earlier this month.

## Istidaa mentality overcomes administrative reform

Continued from page 1

revenue stamps and other office trinkets. They are usually located under an umbrella, a tree or near an electricity source: some offer photocopy and telephone services. These are the *istidaa* writers: successors to the famous Egyptian scribes of ancient times.

These scribes make a living out of their very mobile offices by catering to hordes of citizens who need something or the other from officialdom. They come to supplicate, petition and plead with the government to bestow on them something that is very much their legal and constitutional right as citizens. This is part of the patronage mentality that still survives today. The scribes are needed by all, illiterate and literate people alike. For only they know their way into the bureaucratic wilderness. Only they know how to

forward a petition, who to address it to and what documents to attach to it. Only they know how much revenue stamps you should paste on the petition paper and whether you should stick it on or just enclose it with your supplication.

Supplication is euphemism for an application form. One can understand that four or five or six decades ago governments could not bring themselves to print application forms to hand out to citizens in order to process their requests faster and easier.

Even the advent of modern technologies, like the computer, the photocopier, the fax and the printing press, could not dislodge the good-old fully manual *istidaa* system. Supplicate you must.

When the new Palace of Justice was opened only few weeks ago, it was thought that, in addition to the new build-

ings, the government will introduce a new administrative system to deal with the public. It was believed that the government will do away with the scribes and introduce the form system, where one is handed a form for a particular need or request and all the citizen has to do is to fill in the information and enclose copies of the required documents.

But not so. In fact the government was able to create a hybrid system resulting from the "arranged" marriage of both systems. Now one has to hand in the good-old *istidaa*, improvised by one's good self since no scribes are allowed near the new Palace of Justice, before he is given the necessary forms to fill in! So in effect now, one's *istidaa* is an unnecessary formality, a pre-qualification step to determine if one is eligible to receive the printed application or form.

So far the *istidaa* mentality has survived the computer age and various administrative reforms to become ready to be ushered into the 21st century. Meanwhile, we continue to supplicate, petition and plead!

## After two weeks, identity of marketplace suicide bombers remains a mystery

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but Hezbollah, an Islamic group that wages a guerrilla war against Israel from southern Lebanon.

As evidence, Jibril Rajoub, one of the Palestinian Authority's top security officials, cited the case of a Hezbollah operative injured when a bomb he was assembling exploded in East Jerusalem in May 1996.

Arafat, in a televised interview, also pointed a finger at Hezbollah. He noted that the Hamas leaflet that claimed responsibility for the attack called for the release of Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails, including kidnapped Hezbollah cleric Sheikh Abdel Karim Obeid.

"What is the relation of Hezbollah with this terrorist activity unless they were behind it or they knew it or they facilitated it," Arafat said in the interview with CNN.

But Prime Minister Netanyahu has sought to keep the spotlight on Hamas, its network West Bank and Gaza and, tentatively, its activities under the Palestinian Authority.

Netanyahu said earlier this week there are "more and more indications" that Hamas perpetrated the suicide bombings. But he offered no details and

acknowledged that the identities of the bombers remained a mystery.

"It's still early to say definitely that Hamas is responsible for the attacks, but the method of preparation, the claims of responsibility and other intelligence sources point to Hamas," he told the American television network Fox. "We don't have any indications that Hezbollah is responsible for the attack."

David Bar Ilan, an adviser to Netanyahu, said Tuesday that investigators had determined that "the explosives and the materials that they used (in the bombings) are identical to what has been used by Hamas in other operations here."

Since the bombings, Israel has criticized the Palestinian Authority for not living up to its commitment to combat terrorism. Netanyahu has accused the Palestinians of failing to crack down on the network of Islamic militant groups.

Arafat vociferously denies the charges. Marwan Kanafani, a spokesman for the Palestinian leader, said Tuesday that if the bombers had come from the West Bank or Gaza, their families would have stepped forward to claim them. And, as is customary, the families would erect



a mourning tent.

A report in an Arabic newspaper published in Ramallah, Al-Ayam, commented on another theory—that the bombers were from two villages near the West Bank city of Nablus. The newspaper noted that Israeli security forces "didn't do anything against the people of the two villages"—none of the expected punitive actions if the bombers had been traced there.

Kanafani said the suggestion that the bombers came from

abroad, a statement repeated by Arafat, came from Israeli security people.

"We are in the dark," he said. "The Israelis did not tell us one single thing about the incident or their investigation except to accuse us of being part of this campaign against Israel."

"After 12 days, they have no clue," Kanafani said. "The easiest thing is to point fingers."

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## JORDAN

W E E K



An unconventional report on Jordanian news and views edited by Marwan Al Asmar

Wait till I open my own university, you'll be the first admitted



### NCP to run for elections

As if we didn't know, the National Constitutional Party will be running for the November parliamentary elections. NCP General Secretary Mr Abdel Hadi Al Majali said, "we are presenting a manifesto that is about the meaning of reform and one that sets a departure from sloganeering." The NCP has also launched its mouthpiece, *Al Nahda* weekly newspaper. The paper, which was published last week, and quickly taken off the market because the cabinet had not approved it officially, will resume printing this week.

### Haddadin calls for closing southern crossing

The President of the Travel and Tourism Agents Association (TTAA), Lami Haddadin, is angry with Israeli tourists coming to Jordan via the southern crossing point. His anger has increased to such an extent that he is now calling on the government to close down the Aqaba-Eilat border crossing. At the heart of the problem is that Israeli tourists do not benefit the local economy. Haddadin believes Israeli tourists come to Jordan for a one-day visit to Petra, all expenses paid. He said that Israeli travel agents offer Petra as a bargain in their Israeli holiday package tours, something that Haddadin says must stop.

### Jerash, moves, moving

More and more people have come to the Jerash Festival this year than ever before. The South Theater alone has received 50,000 visitors over the duration of the 19-day festival. About 10,000 went to the Artemis Steps, the Sound and Light received 4000, North Theater 3500 while the Main Forum received over 100,000 people. Nowhere in the history of the festival have such figures been recorded. In his three concerts for example, Iraqi pop star Kalthum Al Saher was welcomed by 20,000 people. But that's not all. Revenues from concerts in the South Theater topped the JD 500,000 mark.

### Another accidental death

We keep asking ourselves, when will it ever stop? Another accidental shooting happened last week during a marriage ceremony. A 26-year-old was shot dead by a stray bullet, fired accidentally by a man sitting right next to him. He died as he was rushed to hospital. Despite the great misery shooting has caused this summer, people remain undeterred. Shooting in the air is likely to continue as a traditional way of expressing joy and happiness—but at what price?

### Turn off that light

Prime Minister Abdel Salam Majali has ordered government ministries to save energy this summer. In a specific instruction, he is ordering government departments and public corporations to cut down in their use of electricity during office hours. This is in a bid to save electricity and make sure that there is no power shortage this summer. His instructions are based on a study by the National Electricity Co., which states that, because of the summer heat wave, demand for electric power had put pressure on the company's generators. The study found that demand for electricity reaches its height between 10 in the morning and 1 in the afternoon. It shoots up again between 7 pm and 10 pm.

### Press cooperation

The first Jordanian-Israeli publishing venture is about to go off. How well will it be received is anybody's guess. However, the publishers are not to be deterred. The first Arabic-Hebrew-English newspaper is to have exciting news about the peace process. The founder of the newspaper is Mahmood Al Khalili, a retired civil servant from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. He told *Al Haddad* weekly that the political newspaper, which will be distributed in Jordan, Israel and the self-rule areas will promote the peace process. His task will not be an easy one.

### Doctors under threat

More than 4000 doctors are likely to lose their membership in the Doctors' Association if they don't pay up their dues. Officials at the 12,000-member association say that up to 25 percent of doctors have not paid their annual fees to the Social and Retirement Fund. If they lose their syndicate card, then their medical license will also be suspended.

### A penny for your thoughts!

Will they or won't they? This has been the question for the last three weeks. The government could be at last budging over dialogue with

the Islamists in a bid to encourage them to change their minds and run for the elections. So far this week we had the PM, one of his deputies, Dr Abdullah Ensour and Minister of Interior Nahir Rashid coming to the rescue. But they are cautiously sticking to their guard saying that the ball is in the Islamists court and that it is up to them to knock on the door of the government. Dr Ensour even reproached the Muslim Brotherhood saying that the movement has received every respect from the state, and freedom to participate in the political life of the country, and this is the gratitude that the government gets. But this is probably leading nowhere. There are talks about talks, but we shall have to wait and see.

### Al Majd stays on board

One more for the road. *Al Majd* weekly newspaper has been reprieved from the axe. It has now fully complied with the Press and Publications Law and increased its nominal capital to JD 300,000. *Al Majd*, like the rest of the weekly newspapers thought they would face closure this week, however, they soon relaxed after finding a legal loophole in the law. And now it looks like that the wonderful weeklies will continue to be with us for quite some time.

## King calls for the start of dialogue Government and Islamists set to meet amidst doubts of outcome



### By a Star Staff Writer

HIS MAJESTY King Hussein ended about two weeks of speculations on the fate of the dialogue between the government and the Islamic opposition.

Addressing a public rally in the Ma'an governorate last Tuesday, the King urged the Islamic Brotherhood, who decided to boycott 1997 general elections, to reassess their stance and join efforts with other political parties to participate in the elections in the spirit of the national interests.

The King launched a long awaited signal to start dialogue between his government and his historical allies, the Muslim Brotherhood.

King Hussein stressed that "the door for dialogue is open and it has never been slammed in the face of anyone, particularly Islamist groups which developed and thrived in the care of the late King Abdullah Ben Al Hussein, the founder of the Kingdom."

Pointing to Islamists, he said "they have had honorable stands which we can never deny or forget, and we hope they will participate in the coming elections."

Political observers over the last few weeks were overwhelmed with what can be described as a crisis between the government and the Islamists who intend to boycott 1997 parliamentary elections. What worsened the situation was the stance of opposition parties backed by some professional associations to follow the footsteps of Islamists.

Such a situation came as a painful blow to the credibility of the government of Prime Minister Abdel Salam Majali, since the opposition demands major political and economic reforms.

However, Majali stressed earlier that dialogue is open with Islamists.

The King's initiative to start dialogue, paves the way for mediators like Lower House Speaker, Sa'ad Hayel Srour to

succeed in arranging for talks between the government and the Muslim Brotherhood, to start next week.

Srour said "dialogue will start soon under no prior conditions from both sides."

Neither the government nor Islamist sources are willing to disclose further details on recent contacts made between both, but the spokesman of the Muslim Brotherhood, Mr Jamil Abu-Baker confirmed that a meeting was convened in parliament between Mr Srour and the Overseer of the Muslim Brotherhood, Abdul Majeed Thuneibat.

The same sources added that during this meeting Thuneibat agreed to the government's call to start talks.

However, Srour stressed the government is ready to hear from all political groups.

In his speech, the King maintained that "in this country we have met for a debate and decided to respect and uphold the constitution, and to agree or disagree within the framework of the National Charter which encompasses all political shades in the Kingdom."

However, the core of dispute between the government and the Islamists is still there. Backed by other opposition parties, Islamists still firmly insist on the cancellation of the one-man-one-vote system, and the new Press and Publication Law, in addition to a number of political and economic reforms. The Brotherhood which principally opposes the peace treaty with Israel, calls on the government to stop normalization with the Jewish state as a condition to start talks.

In a response to the Islamist demand, the King stressed that if the question of peace with Israel is the condition, "I say that the peace treaty was approved by both houses of parliament, and backed by the people of Jordan."

Concerning the one-man-one-vote electoral system, the King said "it was endorsed by



parliament and it is not a temporary law." The King described the electoral system as "the best that can suit us under the present circumstances."

The King's speech in Ma'an has been welcomed by the Muslim Brotherhood who urged the government to launch a constructive dialogue.

Abu Baker expects dialogue between the government and Islamists by the next week. He told *The Star* that "the government is requested to show seriousness and true intentions to find an exit out of the crisis." He pointed out that some of the demands of the opposition parties and Islamists could be met by the government, while the rest of these demands, he added, could be achieved later, if real intentions do exist.

Deputy Mohammed Oweidah, secretary of the Islamic Action Front (IAF) welcomed the King's initiative, but he stressed that the government must prepare for a national dialogue with the Islamic Movement and other opposition parties.

"Through such a dialogue, the crisis will be settled leaving no loser or winner, but in favor of the national interest of the country," Oweidah said.

Ibrahim Zeid Al Kilani says that the demands of Muslim

Brotherhood are clear, that are to run a fair and democratic elections.

The secretary of the Jordanian Arab Constitutional Front, Milhem Al Tal said that the Muslim Brotherhood and other opposition parties are expected to hold a meeting shortly to coordinate their stances and put forward an agenda for the dialogue. ■

## Security talks resume but Ross fails to put process back on track

### Continued from page 2

along with the bombers. "We know they have information they're not telling us about," he said. "And they have yet to make any arrests or otherwise act on any of the information we've given them."

Israel has demanded that the Palestinians arrest leaders of the military wings of Hamas and Islamic Jihad, both militant Islamic groups, along with several activists of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine.

The Israeli government on

Tuesday slightly loosened restrictions on agricultural products entering Israel from the Gaza Strip, allowing about 10 trucks loaded with vegetables to make the crossing. But many of the most punishing sanctions, including a cutoff in the flow of millions of dollars in tax revenues to the Palestinian Authority, and a closure that prevents Palestinian workers from entering Israel, remain in place.

Atef Ajawneh, deputy finance minister in the Palestinian Authority, said the self-rule government was forced to

borrow to pay its 80,000 employees after Israel withheld about \$40 million in taxes it is required to pass along to the Palestinians.

Ross added his voice to the criticism Tuesday, telling reporters that such measures are counterproductive. US officials have urged Israel to unfreeze the funds, which represent about 60 percent of the Palestinian Authority's monthly revenue. ■

LA Times-Washington Post News Service

## Khatami's new cabinet signals political opening, experts say

### Continued from page 2

think he'd be willing to take a risk" to promote a policy change, the analyst said.

Other key appointments are being interpreted as a statement of Khatami's independence from traditional political pressures. By removing hard-liners linked with extremist activities, Khatami's government may also be signaling a policy shift to the outside world, US scholars say.

At the intelligence ministry, Khatami has replaced Ali Fallahian with Qorbanali Dorri Najafabadi. While Fallahian was widely linked with anti-Western attacks, Najafabadi is described by US experts as a non-ideologue and a "facts-and-figures realist" who headed parliament's budget and planning committee.

The intelligence appointment "will signal more restraint" in its clandestine activities, according to Shaul Bakhash, an Iran expert at George Mason University in Virginia and author of "Reign of the Ayatollahs."

Najafabadi is also on two of the government's most influential committees: the Council of Experts, which selects the Supreme Leader, the post held by Ayatollah Khomeini until his death in 1989, and the Expediency Council, whose duties were recently expanded to advise the Supreme Leader on policy and national problems.

Perhaps most telling—and controversial—is the new president's appointment of Atollah Mohajerani to the cultural

and Islamic guidance ministry, his own former post. In 1991, Mohajerani ignited an uproar by calling for Iran to restore relations with the United States.

"He appointed someone who is certain to follow in his footsteps, which means easing controls on cultural restrictions, films, books and magazines," Bakhash said.

This and other appointments are also likely to open the way for an eventual relaxation of the internal social and political climate in Iran, experts predict. "It's all very encouraging in terms of our best hopes for Iran," said Steve Fairbanks, a senior State Department analyst on Iran now on sabbatical at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars.

The cabinet appointments are likely to foster "the already tremendous debate on the role of the clergy, the development of civil society and formal political parties, and questions about the relationship between

Islam and democracy," he added.

Mohajerani's views are sufficiently controversial, however, that he faces the likelihood of a strong challenge in the Majlis, or parliament, debate which begins next Tuesday.

Overall, Khatami, who was inaugurated Aug. 3, has appointed a slate of ministers based on their credentials rather than their affiliation with the many interest groups and factions that have deeply fragmented Iran's political establishment, according to Iranian officials and American experts.

Although none of the 22 appointments were women, Khatami is expected to name at least two women as vice-presidents and several as vice-ministers and directors general in what would be a major departure from past governments. ■

LA Times-Washington Post News Service

## King warns of dangerous moment for the region

### Continued from page 1

said.

He said he had information that militants were planning more attacks in Israel.

Jordan has been calling on Israel to lift its closure of the Palestinian areas, ever since the Israeli government imposed a total siege on the West Bank and Gaza on 30 July. But since then some of these measures have been lifted although hundreds of thousands of Palestinian workers are still barred from entering Israel. Foreign Minister Fayez Tarawneh had criticized Israeli measures against the Palestinians as unjustified. ■

## Press cocktail

### Bassel making sense of nonsense

Bassel Talouzi, a witty columnist in *Al Haddad* Arabic weekly called on his chief editor to "learn" the evasive techniques of the so-called "underground" movie houses which show pseudo-pornography in downtown Amman. The writer almost expresses admiration for the way the management of the cinemas fool government censors. According to Talouzi these houses cut explicit scenes out of movies and then show them separately when the film is over. They, at times, insert these scenes in drama and/or adventure movies. The management of these houses do not care, Talouzi adds, as long as it recruits paying customers.

The writer explains that owners of these houses succeed in hitting two birds with one stone; they are saving their necks from the sword of censorship without reducing the number of patrons.

Talouzi suggests a similar tactic be employed when his columns are subjected to the scissor by the editors of his paper. He described the process of editing out whole paragraphs or sensitive words as akin to a professional killer who mutilates the body of his victim so that it would become beyond recognition.

He wryly suggests that like what goes on in the underground cinemas, his columns should be subjected to a similar treatment. He suggests that those uncensored versions should be inserted, for example, at the end of his columns, else he would resort to writing about such things as the importance of Feffy Abdo's (famous Egyptian belly dancer) legs to the cultural movement of the Arab world to escape the censor's scissors!

### An agenda for Arab media

Under the title of "Media War" Dr Huda Fakhouri wrote in *Al Majd*, a Nasserite weekly, about "brain washing" which she described as the most dangerous challenge that faces the Arab world. Brain washing began when the Arabs accepted the existence of the state of Israel and its occupation, she wrote. Fakhouri puts the blame on the Arab and international media for playing a great role in imposing a "germ" called the status quo into the dictionary of semi-educated people who rule the Arab nation.

She added that expressions like "the status quo", "weakness of the nation", "what is the alternative", "US hegemony" among others have become the daily diet of those who want us to accept the present [peace] solutions.

Fakhouri demanded a "counter attack" from the Arab press and media to promote justice and equality among people in this part of the world. She implored the media to help bring back self-confidence among the people of this nation and return the hope so that they can live in dignity.

### Three for one, just like pizza

Nayef Al Tawarah, the publisher of the *Al Bilad*, celebrated his victory over two provisions in the new press law which demanded a capital increase for weekly newspapers to JD 300,000 and a 10-year experience for the chief editor.

Ironically, Al Tawarah, thanked the government for the new press law, as the *Al Bilad* has now expanded through the takeover of another weekly *Al Sayad*. This is a great success, he wrote in his weekly column, pointing out that the paper's circulation has jumped by more than 20 percent.

But will his joy see no end? This week the famous duo was joined by yet another weekly, *Al Hayat*, to make up a "three for one, like a pizza," to use a previous headline by *Al Bilad*.

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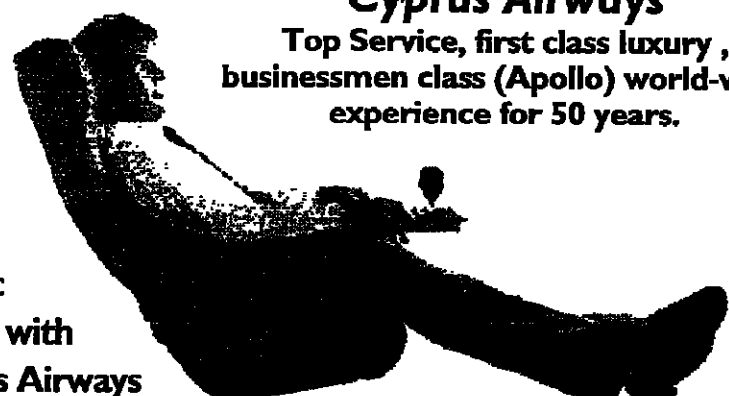
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"Will the real leader please stand up?"  
(Note: Cambodia's Parliament has rubber-stamped Prime Minister Hun Sen's political game plan by electing him for an additional term while a third, elected one, is still roaming in exile.)

## Our Say...

### Trusting Netanyahu

JORDANIAN EFFORTS aimed at defusing the crisis that now befuddles the Middle East peace process appear to be bearing fruit. The high-level talks on Wednesday between His Majesty King Hussein and Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in Aqaba have opened a window of hope on the possible resumption of Israeli-Palestinian talks and the lifting of a two-week-old siege of Palestinian territories by Israel.

Although it is early to make pronouncements on where the parties will go from here, it is hoped that the Israeli premier will come to the conclusion that his closure of the Palestinian areas will not provide Israel with peace or security. This realization is important since the King has reminded all of us that those are against peace may be succeeding in forcing their own narrow-minded agenda on the region.

But while there are reasons for cautious optimism, we should be realistic in our expectations of the Netanyahu government. Our focus should not be on what Netanyahu and his colleagues say and promise to do, but on what they are doing on the ground. While the Israeli premier was conducting talks in Aqaba, Israeli bulldozers were tearing down Arab houses in occupied East Jerusalem because they were built without a permit. And while work continues in earnest on the settlement of Jabal Abu Ghneim in Jerusalem, news about the Israeli government's intention to fatten Jewish settlements in the West Bank and Gaza cannot be ignored.

These and other Israeli violations, foremost of which is the collective punitive measures against an entire nation, are today the main causes for rising Palestinian extremism and the general state of despair about the prospects of peace that continues to haunt the region.

We cannot bring ourselves to believe in or trust the current Israeli prime minister. His actions, since he assumed office, are the only solid testimony to his real intentions and agenda. His statements about his commitment to peace carry little weight at the present time, when the peace process remains buried under the rubble of torn down houses and sand unearthed from Jabal Abu Ghneim.

The issue today is not about resuming security talks between the Palestinian and Israelis; nor is it about forcing President Arafat to round up Hamas and Jihad activists and throwing them behind bars. The issue is not about making Arafat and his authority Israel's policemen on the Gaza and West Bank beats.

The real issue here is about a comprehensive, just and lasting peace in this part of the world. It is about Israel's acceptance to give back the land it occupied in return for peace with its neighbors. It is about redressing the injustice that has befallen hundreds of thousands of Palestinians over more than 50 years of occupation and destruction.

That was and remains the objective of the peace process. Netanyahu and his government do not appear to share this objective with the rest of the world. That's why Netanyahu's assurances and commitments are worthless to us unless and until his deeds prove otherwise. We believe the dangerous moment that King Hussein has talked about in Aqaba is not over yet and we now know how that moment has come to be.

# We need a new political science for a new world

By Khairi Janbek

OUR WORLD needs today a new way of thinking to deal with the global crisis, that is likely to erupt as we move into the 21st century. Since the 1815 Vienna Congress, the emergence of the modern world order, and the new balance of power, we find ourselves with no compass to guide our thoughts.

The need for a world order is necessary for harmonious relations among nations. A new world will have to depend on an order dependent on a new political way of thinking. This must be comprehensive and different to what we've learned, for the current international conditions have no precedence, and the ideas floating around are the byproducts of the bipolarity age.

Clinging to old ideas, or simply presenting them in rehearsed versions, is an excuse for the moribund state of political philosophy. What does not move forward will stagnate and eventually wither away. Political thought is at such a crisis that it will either force such ideas to die or regenerate.

Attempts have been made to reconstruct a new world order. Advocates of the supremacy of international law say that it is the best instrument to regulate inter-state affairs which are the outcome of the voluntary submission of states to rules which they define with each other.

International legality can be employed to resolve conflicts. It can successfully be employed once there is a world order, for the current global situation has even touched on the essential definition of the state, and international law will never be able to deal with the rising clash between state sovereignty and its legitimacy.

The cultural order was introduced to circumvent the deficiencies in international law. But it ended up condemning various cultures as being violent.

The socialist camp always claimed that imperialism was not interested in peace, and therefore having détente is a great success. The West always warned against the evils of communism, and saw détente as the best means to check this expansion.

Nuclear weapons played a great role in the logic of both camps—either would not have hesitated to eliminate the other if it was not for the threat of mutual destruction. But détente is not

important anymore, because culture can be defined in terms of its nuclear, and non nuclear status.

Although nuclear weapons proliferation have expanded nuclear culture and shrunk the non nuclear one, understanding among the first category has become essential for the survival of the world. As for the second category, well, it does not seem important to even consider its immediate future.

One wonders how China, which experienced only two centuries of peace in the last 25 five would have been evaluated culturally if it was not a nuclear power, while Islam, the midwife of western civilization, is being judged through the actions of a small violent minority, and disregarding its achievements to world civilization.

In the age of political globalization it means that lesser and lesser states are able to participate in the shaping of a world order, because they require more power to do so. Such a scenario, divides humanity into participants and onlookers, with emphasis on the strengthening of the state system judged by its sovereignty and legitimacy.

And how does this legitimate state look like in the 21st century? It is a state where the people feel its strength and stability, and allegiance to it. A state must provide its citizens with basic services, and public order to lead productive lives, and increase their prosperity.

Under such a definition state sovereignty becomes legitimate. Humanitarian ideas remain a convenient thorn in the side to be used when it required. This dichotomy between supporting humanitarian values, and supporting states irrespective of their repressive record will eventually disappear, to supporting state structures without taking into account humanitarian considerations under the new political world order. What we shall all face eventually, is the old wisdom that "powerful

is not to mention the stalled Palestinian-Israeli negotiations, the failed Arab attempts at integration, and the political tension within the most complementary and advanced economic nations.

Effectiveness of the rules of economics has nothing to do with the presence or absence of any of the morally desirable attributes that might be inferred from a world order built on economic considerations.

When all else fails, we look for pure politics as the art of the possible attempting, to construct a world order built on principles. State power is measured by its ability to participate in maintaining an international order, whose interests are respected by other countries.

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states can do without allies, and small ones should not even hope for them" (Duc de Lewis 1764-1830).

With this realization, Jordan has developed an agenda for the future world order, based on the question of common ethical values. The suggestion of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan is that "anthropolitics" rather than pure politics of expediency should govern the balance of power within an emerging world order.

As such, people will always come first in the considerations of governments, and the lobby of the powerless will be transformed into a participating lobby of equal status among nations. It is not an idealistic projection, but rather a realistic and practicable solution for the future fall out, which will occur when the club of the powerful shuts its doors in the face of the selective problems of the lesser mortal nations.

Under such a proposal, it would be important to stop wasting resources in attempting to prop up repressive regimes, while leaving countries in democratic transition to suffer the full blows of their courageous acts. It's important to make the emerging world order aware that it cannot make tall orders on various societies while its real preference remains to be supporting repression.

If "anthropolitics" doesn't receive its due consideration, then any world order will be hypocritical and devoid of any ethical and human regard. This is not merely an abstract concept, but the culmination of ideas developed by philosophers whose works of ethics were inseparable from political pronouncements, in an era prior to the division of the world into ideological blocs, and the removal of ethics from policy making.

Neither the material, nor the human considerations of "anthropolitics" are costly, for it is concerned with supporting the physical creation of civil society, and strengthening it wherever it exists. For it means the supremacy of the rule of law, the acceptance of cultural diversity, and political pluralism, ingredients already embodied in any civilized code of existence.

This is the extent of struggle throughout world history to reach this stage of legitimate popular representation. This democratic right is always earned, and its basis is political maturity and social responsibility. ■

**If 'anthropolitics' doesn't receive its due consideration, then any world order will be hypocritical and devoid of any ethical and human regard**

## Open arms for Arab delegation from Israel

● An Israeli Arab delegation member Samih Al Qassem is held up by a Palestinian residents of the Yarmouk refugee camp during the group's visit to Syria, Monday. This is the second visit of Israeli Arabs to the country and it included seven Arab members of the Knesset as well as leading Arab dignitaries. The 44-man delegation, who are on a week-long visit to Syria, is headed by Abdel Wahab Al Darawesh, a Knesset member who represents The Arab Democratic Party. Darawesh caused a stir when he called for the full right of return to the Palestinians to their homeland.



Dr Eyad Sarraj

A FEW weeks ago I said that the struggle of Palestinians today is how not to become a bomb and that the amazing thing is not the occurrence of the suicide bombing, rather the rarity of them.

The BBC interviewer appeared to understand. I was shocked because it is our understanding that the world out there will never understand. And who on earth in their right mind would understand terror and the killing of innocent people? Why do Palestinians kill themselves and Israelis in such a horrific way at the bus stop or in a crowded market? Do you really care to know? Well, let me try and explain.

I believe it is an act of absolute despair and a very serious stage of the seemingly perpetual conflict. Since the uprooting of the Palestinians in 1948 triggered by Irgun Jewish terror under the leadership of Yitzhak Shamir and Menachem Begin, we have tried everything. We have tried Nasser and Arab Nationalism, only to be invaded in 1956 in our second homes in the refugee camps. It was only because of the Russian threat to bomb London and Paris, and the resolve of American president Eisenhower that ended the Israeli occupation.

We have tried the United Nations and its Security Council, which by the way have made excellent resolutions on our behalf. For example Resolution 194 calling on Israel to allow us to return to our homeland, but to no avail. So we kept wandering around, between airports and refugee camps, waiting for a hero or an earthquake. All we wanted was to go home. But our story was getting worse and we grew bitter as we heard that a Jew from Poland would be declared a citizen of our country—a country now called Israel. We were told that officially we were stateless with undefined nationality. So we went to universities. We believed then that Jews were so clever because they were educated. We were told that Jews controlled the world with their education. They are doctors, lawyers and

scientists, never beggars or boxers. In 20 years many of us became university graduates and we were in every university. We had some pride. Some of our educated people formed the resistance movement.

They believed that the Arab countries would never fight Israel, and that we had to force them to fight. Fatah with Yasser Arafat was born. They forced the Arabs to fight by inviting Israel to attack Egypt in 1967.

In the course of six days the Arabs were defeated again but worse. This time we lost Gaza and the West Bank, Egypt lost Sinai, and Syria lost the Golan. In a sudden stroke our fate was sealed and we had to live under Israeli military occupation for 30 years. Do you know what does it mean to live under Israeli military occupation? Do you really care to know? Let me tell you a few things.

■ You are given an identity number and a permit to reside. If you leave the country for more than three years in succession, you lose that right to residence.

■ When you leave the country on a trip, you are given a laissez-passez, a travelling document, valid for one year and it tells you in its recording of your particulars that you are of undefined nationality.

■ Israeli occupation means that you are called twice a year by the intelligence for routine interrogation and persuasion to work as an informer on your brothers and sisters. No one is spared. If you are to be a member of a political organisation you will be sentenced for 10 years. For a military action you will be sentenced to life.

■ To survive under the Israeli occupation you are given the chance to work in the jobs that Israelis do not like, sweeping the streets, building houses, collecting fruit or harvesting.

You will have to leave your home in the refugee camp in Gaza at 3 am, go through the road blocks and check posts, spend your day under the sun and surveillance returning home in the evening to collapse in bed for a few hours before the following day.

We simply became the slaves of our enemy. We are building their homes on our villages, and we clean their streets. Do you know what does it do to you when you have to be the slave of your enemy in order to survive. No you will never know how painful it is unless your country is occupied by another force. Only then will you learn how to watch in silence pretending not to see the torture of your friends and the humiliation of your father.

Do you know what it means for a child to see his father spat at and beaten before his eyes by an Israeli soldier? Nobody knows what happened to our children. We don't know ourselves except we observe that they lose respect for their fathers. So they, our children, the children of the stone as they became known, tried the Intifada - the Uprising.

Seven long years our children were throwing stones and being killed daily. Nearly all our young men were arrested, the majority were tortured. All had to confess. The result was every one suspected that all people were spies. So, we were exhausted, tormented and brutalised.

What else could we do to return to our home? We had almost forgotten that and all what we wanted was to be left alone.

What else could we try? Oh yes, peace. When the news came that Arafat had signed a peace treaty in Washington we were jubilant. At last we thought we were to get rid of that miserable life of military occupa-

tion, at last. So we had hope.

We could not believe our eyes when there were no more curfews and we could actually spend our evening on the beach or wander in streets which were now ours after eight o'clock at night. We were ecstatic. We even had elections and we had a parliament, so we were told. Then came Binyamin Netanyahu.

He refused to meet Arafat and was clearly forced to shake hands in obvious disgust. He refused to free our prisoners, to have a safe passage for us to move between the West Bank and Gaza. He even surrounded our towns and villages with his

tanks and arrested our policemen. Then he went after our holy places and opened a tunnel under our holiest Mosque. Tens of our children and also Israeli soldiers were killed because of that tunnel, but he went on insulting us and driving out our sanity.

Arafat called for patience and we were patient, then Netanyahu started to build settlements in Jerusalem and drive the remaining Palestinians out. Settlers in Hebron spat on our prophet and called him a pig. All in the name of peace we were humiliated, even arrested and tortured by Palestinian forces to protect the peace. Our Authority was turning against us to please Netanyahu. Our officials were driving in big cars and building big villas. They have VIP cards and cross the check posts like human beings while we are left to rot.

I've told you a few things. Now do you understand why we have turned into suicide killers? ■

Dr Eyad Sarraj, from Gaza, is a Palestinian psychiatrist and a human rights activist. MER



Business scene

A new study on the competitiveness of industrial products in Jordan has been carried out by the Royal Scientific Society. It states that half of the industrial investment does not benefit the economy. This is due to the lack of efficiency of half of the available productive capacity for Jordanian industries.

The study revealed that the rate of the exploited productive capacity in Jordanian industries covered by the survey, does not exceed 53% of the total of potential productive capacity. The small and medium-sized industries are more beneficial to the Jordanian economy, because they require low capital but help reduce unemployment.

The study pointed out that there is a noticeable reduction in the level of workers' allowances and wages in the industrial sector. Definitely this is reflected on the productivity of manpower and restrains its creative skills.

The study sums up the problems facing the industrial sector to include lack of finance, small size of the local market, high price of output requirements, competition from outside products and the intense competition among local producers.

Aiming to develop the performance of tourism services, 25 travel and tourist agencies agreed to merge into one company. This company is the first of its kind in Jordan to comprise a group of travel agents.

The merger, according to Lame Haddadin, president of the Travel and Tourism Agents Association, will help enhance the process of promoting Jordan and is expected to attract more tourist groups visiting Jordan. If the idea is to merge 25 tourist agencies into one company, then this means that after concluding merger among the operating 200 travel and tourist agencies, the total number of these offices will be four big tourist operators.

A trade protocol agreement has been signed last week between the Federation of Pakistani Chambers of Trade and Industry and the Federation of Jordanian Chambers of Trade and Industry. The protocol enhances means of economic ties between the two countries and helps the private sector in both countries to take a more active role in consolidating their trade relations. Jordanian exports to Pakistan last year reached JD 19 million, while imports from Pakistan stood at JD 4 million.

**Foreign Exchange**  
Wednesday, 13 August

	Buy JD	Sell JD
US \$	0.7080	0.7100
£	1.1510	1.1568
DM	0.4124	0.4145
SFR	0.4801	0.4825
FRF	0.1227	0.1233
YEN	0.5624	0.5652
DEL	0.3667	0.3685
LIT	0.0419	0.0421

# Closure of Occupied Territories causes massive losses to economy

AMMAN (Star)—The Israeli closure of the West Bank and Gaza Strip, following the double suicide bombing in Jerusalem two weeks ago, is causing the Palestinian economy great losses spanning the industrial, trade, tourism and labor sectors. According to the PNA's Ministry of Trade these losses are estimated as high as \$8,826,452 (about \$9 million) per day.

Trade exchange between the West Bank and Gaza, on the one hand and between them and Israel and the world on the other, has been paralyzed. Palestinian sources point out that there is a sharp shortage in basic supplies such as flour, powdered baby milk, dairy products and rice (PNA imports about 800 tons of flour monthly from Israel).

According to Nasir Sarraj, general secretary at the Ministry of Trade, markets in Gaza suffer shortages of construction materials (cement, steel, etc) and raw materials needed for local production.

Israel continues to impose this security siege on the Palestinian territory, despite the fact that its economy is basically dependent on the strip, 80 per-

cent of the total trade exchange of Gaza is linked to Israel while the remainder 20 percent is concluded between the Strip, the West Bank and outside markets.

Palestinian economy losses as a result of the blockade have covered all sectors. "The closure has badly affected the industrial sector, causing it \$1.8 million daily losses," said Sarraj.

The agricultural sector suffered daily losses of \$2 million. Four factories for packing citrus fruits have stopped operating as more than 2000 laborers are not able to reach their work destinations because of the closure. Gaza Strip exports daily about 1850 tons of vegetables, and 500 tons of citrus to Israel, the West Bank and to external markets. After the closure of the crossing points, quantities of these products have been piling up and thus causing farmers more losses.

The transport sector has not escaped. Many trucks that carry cargo from the West Bank and Gaza to Israel and across the borders and vice-versa are now at a standstill. Also taxis carrying laborers and businessmen to and from

the crossing points to Israel are hindered.

The complete closure of the West Bank and Gaza means also putting restrictions on the Palestinian laborers' movement either to Israel or inside the Palestinian territories. Many expatriates who are working in the Gulf states are now unable to see their families in the West Bank because the crossing bridges have been closed. They could face losing their jobs if they are not able to return before their vacation ends.

The situation on the Occupied Territories is expected to have much worse effects on the unemployment ratio. There are now about 554,000 Palestinian laborers, among them 374,000 in the West Bank, 180,000 in Gaza and 65,000 in Israel with work permits (another 650,000 are without permits), according to Shahin Saad, the general secretary of the Federation of the Palestinian Workers' Unions. Saad added that the rate of unemployment in Palestine is now as high as 70 percent, according to latest figures released by the PNA Central Statistics Department.

Accordingly, the total daily losses of the labor sector can reach as high as \$1.5 million, Abdullah Hijazi, the assistant undersecretary at the Ministry of Tourism estimates the losses in the tourism sector at more than \$100 million this year.

The closure has separated the Palestinian territories from each other in addition to isolating them from Israel and outside world.

Many tourist groups have cancelled their bookings to the holy land, Hijazi said.

The closure is also affecting other economic sectors such as banking. The Israeli authorities prevented one Palestinian bank to transfer money from its account in Tel Aviv to a branch in Gaza. So the bank was unable to cover its financial commitments. In addition, the closure led to a shortage in fuel in Gaza and the West Bank and if the situation continues and the closure is not lifted this will lead to deep problems.

What is worsening the situation is that the Israeli treasury is refusing to remit outstanding dues to the PNA. "These sums represent 60 percent of PNA revenues, and they are their right and not a donation from Israel," said Atef Alawneh, undersecretary at the Ministry of Finance.

Due revenues from Israel till 1 August are 145 million shakels, divided as follows:

■ 74 million shakels, added value tax which is collected by Israel from the Palestinians.

■ About 35 million shakels, from fuel and income tax as well as other remittances.

■ About 37 million shakels from customs tariffs.

Mohammad Zuhdi Al-Nashashibi, Palestinian finance minister said that PNA has earlier asked Israel to remit revenues due to Authority warning that in the case of delay, the PNA has the right to ask for an interest of 14 percent on these sums that are frozen.

This is not all, Israel is also exerting pressure on the American Congress to prevent approval of US aid to the Palestinians. If the Americans do not prove aid, then the donor states won't transfer the formerly approved assistance for 1998.

Now the PNA finds itself in a critical condition. It can't even pay its employees and police their monthly salaries. Also allowances to its diplomatic offices abroad have been stopped awaiting the Israeli government to lift its freeze on remittances to the PNA.

## Rising dollar lifts tourism, European economies

By Anne Swardson

PARIS—Graham Allen looks great in the leather cowboy hat he is wearing on in a boutique in an underground mall near the Louvre, and the price—\$54 including tax—seems so reasonable, he says, he just might buy it.

The 23-year-old American student, fresh from eight months in Spain, has seen his dollars go further and further during his time in Europe. The value of the dollar against major European currencies has soared more than 20 percent since the new year, much of the increase in the last two months. "We weren't going to go to London, but now we are," said Allen's traveling companion and fellow student, Tyler Downey, 23.

"Paris is expensive, but not as expensive as we expected. I know I'm charging more on my credit card than I normally do," Downey added.

The greenback is worth more in French francs and German marks than at any time since October 1989. That's good for American tourists overseas, whose costs are becoming cheaper by the day.

But experts say the most beneficial effect of the dollar's rise may be for businesses on this side of the Atlantic. It's not just tourists buying hats, though that helps. Because weaker French francs and German marks mean exports from those countries become cheaper in dollars and thus sell more, the strong dollar is giving a badly needed kick to ailing European economies—just when they need it. Saddled with high unemployment and discouraged consumers, France and Germany, the economic bulwarks of continental Europe, have been in the doldrums for years. Slow economies have led to political restlessness and stalemate in both nations.

If a strong dollar stimulates more growth and thus lowers unemployment, it could buy time for leaders in both nations. Growth could offer leeway to enact badly needed economic reforms and deregulation. And it might make it easier for those countries to qualify for the European Union's shaky-but-ongoing plan to convert to a single currency by Jan. 1, 1999. "I think the fall of the European currencies against the dollar is a good thing," said Herve Gouletquer, chief Paris economist for the French bank Credit Lyonnais.

"For a long time, we have been blocked, we have lacked economic growth. If we have more growth, people will be more willing to accept the reforms that are needed. It is a kind of virtuous circle."

The rising dollar comes as the nations in the European Union are cutting government spending, raising taxes and otherwise tightening their belts to reduce their budget deficits to three percent of gross domestic product this year. That is the key target for those wishing to participate in the new common currency, the euro, whose nation-members are to be chosen next spring.

The outlook for the euro has been clouding lately. The arrival of a Socialist government in France has worsened France's already slim chances of getting its deficit down to the target by the deadline. And German Chancellor Helmut Kohl, who insists the deficit target must be met precisely, is facing political difficulties that reduce his budgetary maneuvering room.

But higher economic growth rates make it possible to have less severe spending reductions and still get close to the three percent target. Because the economies of France and Germany are so dependent on exports, which represent one-fourth and one-third of eco-

nomics activity in those countries, respectively, exchange rates have an enormous effect. In Germany, exports are expected to be at least six percent higher this year than last year, though exchange rates are not the only reason.

Economic growth provides "a more amenable backdrop" to budget austerity, said Martin Brooks, an international economist with Goldman Sachs investment firm in London.

Ironically, the high dollar arises in part from investor concern about the future of the euro. About a year ago, financial markets believed the euro countries would be a small group, all of which more or less met the standards for fiscal rectitude and economic austerity.

But since then, Italy and Spain, among others, have pressed hard to join. Both have made huge strides in cutting their budget deficits, especially Spain. But both are viewed by Germany as "soft" countries that, once in the euro club, cannot be relied on to keep their economic houses in order. In addition, France's new prime minister, Lionel Jospin, while promising to meet France's commitments, is opposed to austerity.

German officials worry because a single currency, in a sense, tars all participants with the same brush. If Italy or France is fiscally irresponsible, fewer international investors would want to invest in the euro, even if the Germans keep their deficit down. Less investment means a weaker currency.

Germany, more concerned than most nations about inflation, dislikes a weak euro because it would add to inflation by making the price of imported goods more expensive. Those who think the future euro will indeed be weak are now selling German marks and buying American dollars, thus making the dollar stronger.

The dollar has gone up when it looks like the euro will be weak or when there is broad confusion about its future," said Steven Englander of the firm Smith Barney in Paris. "Now we have both."

The French Finance Ministry has made no official comment on the rise of the dollar; often officials feel the dollar has moved too high they will try to talk it down with public statements. If France is satisfied

with a weaker franc, it indicates a change of thinking. When former president Valery Giscard d'Estaing said last fall that the franc was overvalued at about 5 to the dollar and should fall to 5.50, he was sharply criticized by government officials. Today the dollar is worth about 6.4 francs.

In Germany, a government spokesman said this week that no need was seen to intervene in financial markets to arrest the dollar's rise. Finance Minister Theo Waigel expressed some concern last month, but analysts do not believe the powerful central bank, the Bundesbank, will act soon to rein in the dollar.

LA Times-Washington Post News Service

## Elite Academy holds course on management techniques



Participants in the 6-day marketing workshop organized by MC International last week. The course dealt with sales techniques, market planning, time and ethical managements and team work.

MC INTERNATIONAL is a Management Consulting Firm that complements the hotel industry. Its personnel include hoteliers who have graduated from top hotel schools in Switzerland and the USA, and who in turn have vast practical experience in major Three, Four and Five Star hotel chains.

M.C. International has a number of objectives which include consultancy for hotels and restaurants, staff training up to management positions, recruiting for the hotel and catering industry, project establishment, system establishment and business development.

After the peace treaty, and the political stability, Jordan has become a major tourist target where many 5 Star hotel chains are now under the process of construction such as Hilton, Sheraton, Hayatt, and the Four Seasons, as well as many Five and Four Star hotels and restaurants.

Even though the new tax free importation law of equipment, tools, and furniture for such touristic projects is a great facilitator, the main corner stone for these industries remains missing which is manpower, and a well trained customer-oriented staff.

From that perspective M.C. International came up to a decision of opening a leading training academy called Elite International Academy. This is the first Academy to provide theoretical and practical workshops and specialized courses. Its material is tailor-made for the Jordanian market. All courses are taught in English language along with basic French hotel language.

Computer skills are provided using the leading hotel software such as Fidelio and Scala.

The Academy will be operating out of a reputable hotel located in Amman, in order to be able to give the prospective students a proper working atmosphere especially in practical courses where they can use all the hotel facilities to enhance their basic skills. Along with its agreements with other hotels such as Marriott for supervisory and managerial training levels.

Elite International Academy is in the final stage of becoming a member of the Jordanian Touristic Hotel Association, Jordanian Ministry of Tourism, Ministry of Education, and the American Hotel & Motel Association.

The Academy is also in serious negotiations with Northern Ireland Hotel & Catering College Portrush, to finalize the agreement of the accreditation between the two schools. Furthermore through this agreement, Elite students will be able to continue their higher education in Ireland and the rest of the world.

## US robot outlances the field

By Mary Jordan

TOKYO—Lancelot was a long shot, like an American entry at a bread-baking contest in Paris. The little robot, designed by a team from the University of Maryland, was competing in Japan, the Robot Kingdom—the only foreigner going up against opponents made by robotically inclined Japanese engineering students.

The contest was simple: Each of the robots, which looked like souped-up skateboards, had about two minutes to race around an oval track. Guided only by the computerized robotic "brains" their creators had installed on their backs, the robots had to complete the loop as quickly as possible, making sure to touch eight targets along the way with a little lance attached to their front.

As part of a Tokyo robot extravaganza that ended last Tuesday, Lancelot took his turn against 110 Japanese robots all brimming with software to die for. And, like Rocky Balboa taking on Apollo Creed, the little guy from College Park kicked butt.

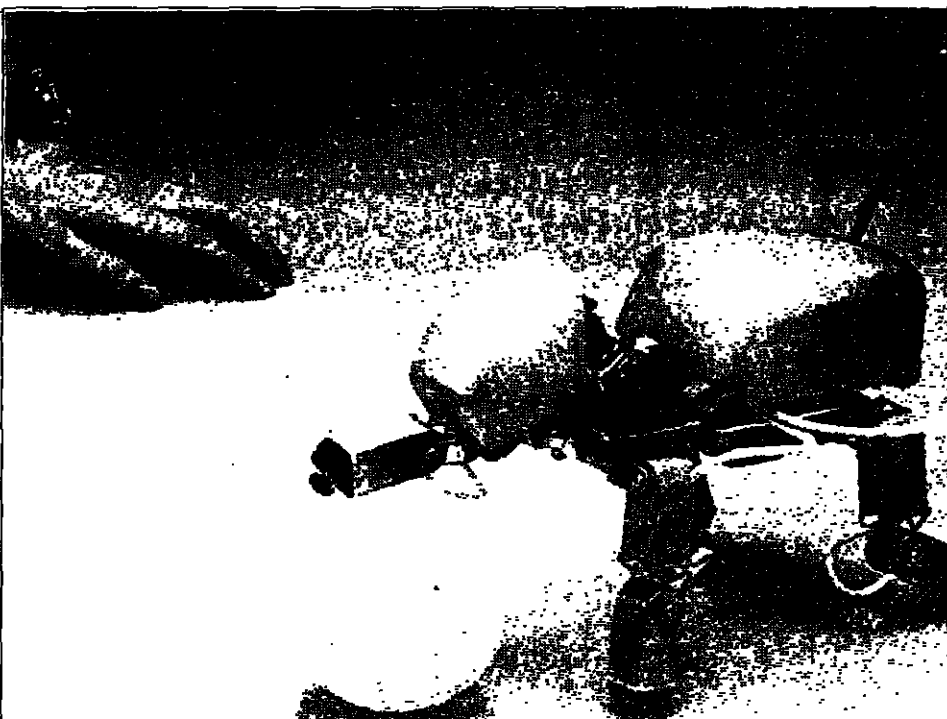
"I'm shocked we won," said Gregory Walsh, an assistant professor of mechanical engineering, who organized the Maryland team. After the first-place Americans bowed before the judges, they were given prizes that included nearly \$2,000 in cash.

"There was another robot that had smoked everybody," explained Christopher Cowles, 22, a computer science and electrical engineering jock. But that robot crashed, while steady, accurate Lancelot came out ahead.

Lancelot's victory in Tokyo, in one category at the Japanese International Robot Grand Prix, was particularly gratifying for the Maryland crowd, because when it comes to the mechanics of robots, it's tough to beat the Japanese.

Plus, Japan had the home-court advantage. In a grand glass building in the heart of Tokyo, the robot competition and symposium was held to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Japanese Society of Mechanical Engineering.

The event drew some of the world's top minds in robotics and artificial intelligence and it



showcased some inventive new robots built by Japanese students. One could play the cello, and another washed hair, using two big mechanical hands to crack an egg onto the customer's hair for greater shine.

Hundreds of people came out to see the most amazing robot of all: a 400-pound, 6-foot-tall robot that could walk upstairs, almost like a human. This robot, developed by 150 engineers at a Honda laboratory over 10 years, cost close to \$80 million in research and development, according to a Honda spokesman.

"Robots were first developed to be used in areas where human labor was difficult—dirty, dangerous or hard work," said Kazuo Hirai, a managing director of Honda's research and development arm. But Hirai said the next generation of robots is going to "coexist with humans," perhaps by aiding nurses in hospitals or acting as nighttime security patrols or carrying baggage for hotel guests.

Robots have had their share of fame in the United States, from the globe-headed, pincer-fingered robot who was always warning "Danger, Will Robinson," on the old "Lost in Space" television series, to R2-D2 and his pals in "Star Wars."

This summer, robots have been given a big public-relations boost in the United States by the good work of the Pathfinder craft's rover, controlled by NASA, but roaming on the surface of Mars. Still, despite the charm of the mechanical buddies of television and the movies, Americans generally tend to think of robots as vaguely cold and complicated—and futuristic.

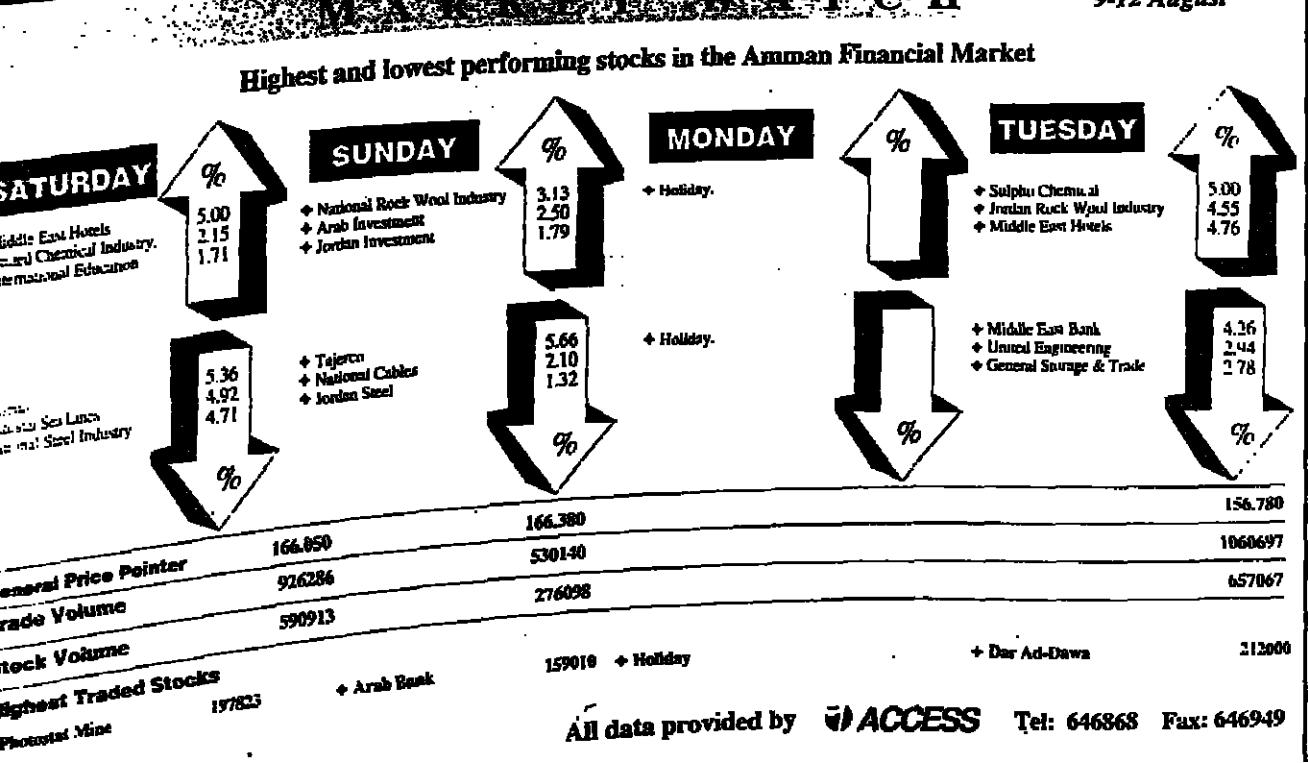
"Most Americans still don't want to deal with their VCRs," said Julio Rosenblatt, a member of the Maryland team. "There is a greater willingness in Japan to use advanced technology in consumer electronics."

For decades, the Japanese have loved and nurtured robot characters, like American children with Mickey Mouse or Bambi. Japanese children grow up with robot toys, robot cartoons and a generally warm image of robots as friendly, helpful and useful. And backed by enormous support from Honda, Nissan and many of Japan's corporate giants, as well as the government, Japan has developed a generation of robots that do everything from assembling cars to washing skyscraper windows.

The Japanese have developed amazing robots in recent years, including some that play volleyball and table tennis or cut down trees. A quintet of robot musicians played for the gathered robotists this week in Tokyo. With a series of arms and wires and clamps and braces, the robots played two violins, a cello and two flutes. The arms moved remarkably like human arms, bowing the string instruments, and it blew into the flutes to produce classical music.

Researchers at Japan's Tsukuba University have also fitted cockroaches with sensors and small robotic "brains" that allow scientists to control their movements. The hope is that these creatures could be used to probe for victims of earthquakes or mine collapses in conditions too small and dangerous for humans. There is also hope that the roaches could be used for a variety of surveillance tasks. The Japanese government is so impressed with the project that it has kicked in \$5 million.

Researchers at the Tokyo University of Science have developed a "face robot," which looks like a mannequin's head and can make the facial expressions of anger, sadness, fear, surprise, happiness and disgust.









AUGUST 1997  
IDE  
RY LARSON

هكذا من العرب

AUGUST 1997  
A special section offering  
fresh perspectives on  
global issues prepared for  
The Star

# THE WORLD PAPER

PRINTED IN SEVEN LANGUAGES  
ON FIVE CONTINENTS

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The new currency of change

## If it's broken, don't try and fix it—just rename it

Holding meetings, it is often said, is a lot easier than working. Something similar is afoot with names and nations: changing them is a lot easier than the hard graft of rebuilding a society. This willingness to change names, or 'repackage' with a well-crafted adjective, is sending ripples through politics, culture—and geography

By Crocker Snow Jr.  
IT WAS A DIPLOMATIC epiphany in the mid-1960s when Singapore's middle-aged prime minister Lee Kuan Yew wrote a letter of congratulations to the newly appointed Assistant Secretary of State for Far Eastern Affairs at the US Department of State, in which he posed the embarrassing question: "Far? To whom?"

Good question. And apparently the Washington bureaucrats got it quickly enough. Within a year, the department was renamed the East Asia desk.

The lesson is in the label. The descriptive adjective that scholars, journalists and diplomats readily affix to the proper names of people, places or events (almost like those useful yellow "post-its" so ubiquitous in any business office), can be the stuff of misleading, misrepresentative and misinformed characterization. Consider the proverbial "charismatic" politician, "homogeneous" country and "monolithic" communism. The labels almost lived longer than the individuals or movements described.

Once useful shorthand adjectives regarding regions of the world, or inhabitants thereof, abound—their currency long exhausted. The Holy Roman Empire might have started it all. For most of its 830 years, it was anything but "holy." And it was more Austro-Hungarian than "Roman" in its control and composition.

Today there are "stylish" Italians and "hard working" Koreans. We freely identify with the "fun-loving" Brazilians and the "formal" Swedes, the "argumentative" Indians and the "class-conscious" Brits.

There is "corrupt" Nigeria, "melting pot" America and "alles in Ordnung" Germany. Happily, the dictionary-demanding "fissiparous tendencies" of the Indian subcontinent has largely disappeared from contemporary use as racial rioting has diminished and market barriers crumble. But the "inscrutable" Orient or Oriental bequeathed us by Victorian Britain is still trotted out by frustrated Westerners as the catch-all characterization when a negotiation in

China or a political party in Thailand goes awry.

Labels today are to good names what a lamprey is to a salmon. The multinational business that finds the pejorative "rapacious" securely attached to its flank is the stuff of public relations nightmares. It's a label that affirms the prejudice—and bleeds away the value.

A country like Mexico in the early 1990s was blessed with the description "prospering" when things were moving nicely. When things went awry, the adjective "once" was added before the country's name while "collapsing" or "free-fall" become optional extras inserted before the name of the currency in question. Not surprisingly, the peso's rate of descent accelerated. Sometimes labels serve as do-not-enter warnings that a philosophical minefield awaits. Northern Ireland and Colombia, two countries with the longest running (and seemingly insoluble) levels of organized murder and mayhem, are variously reduced to the simple "troubled" and "violence-prone." These labels serve as red flags that their interpreters may know too much of the details of their indigenous movements to try to summarize or detail them further.

The Middle East, by contrast, is a perpetual treasure trove for the incorrigible. Labels ranging from "market opening" to "privatization prone" to the coveted but somewhat vague "transitional."

So what are the labels in need of change today in the drive to eliminate cliché and meaningless shorthand and add a little currency to the mix? Let's start with a geography quiz.

labeler looking for a new and useful way to abstract the lessons of history and of the ages. The Arab-Israeli conflict is variously—and accurately—described as "historical," "religious," "racial," "inexorable," "inevitable" or "inequitable," depending on your point of view. All good adjectives, each a good label. And doubt-



less each one will continue to apply. Now there is some movement on the economic side of the Middle East equation. Though Arab lands shows some of the lowest growth rates of any developing region of the world outside of Africa, they are no longer glibly characterized as "oil rich" but rather assigned a confusion of labels ranging from "market opening" to "privatization prone" to the coveted but somewhat vague "transitional."

So what are the labels in need of change today in the drive to eliminate cliché and meaningless shorthand and add a little currency to the mix? Let's start with a geography quiz.

newsworthy hurricane or typhoon or tsunami out there that is not "devastating"? Is there a fortress, in the sand or in Afghanistan, that is "pregnant"? Might the most under-populated favelas of Rio de Janeiro or shanty towns of Jakarta be painted as other than "teeming"? Is the United Nations (which is the conscience for these favelas among other things) ever portrayed without the appellation "bloated," "bureaucratic" or "cash-strapped"? Is there an "un-tough" dictator or might Margaret Thatcher, in her doge, be described as the "rusting" Iron Lady?

We live in a world of image adjusters and spin control doctors and the oh-so-old-fashioned public relations consultants. But lurking behind them, as an influential secret society, are the LIA's—the label inventor applicators. Might the adjective "ubiquitous" best apply to them? @

Can the Mississippi River become something more than "mighty"? Might the Pacific Ocean take on a more useful oceanic adjective than "vast"? Indeed, does Saharan Africa deserve a more discriminating fate than "drought-stricken"? Are foothills only "rolling" or the Himalayas other than "imposing"? And might we occasionally do better than "snow-capped" for that distant, high elevation peak?

In the realm of people, places and events, is there a

newsworthy hurricane or typhoon or tsunami out there that is not "devastating"? Is there a fortress, in the sand or in Afghanistan, that is "pregnant"? Might the most under-populated favelas of Rio de Janeiro or shanty towns of Jakarta be painted as other than "teeming"? Is the United Nations (which is the conscience for these favelas among other things) ever portrayed without the appellation "bloated," "bureaucratic" or "cash-strapped"? Is there an "un-tough" dictator or might Margaret Thatcher, in her doge, be described as the "rusting" Iron Lady?

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To the victor goes the thesaurus

## 'Democratic' is key to African formula

By Fiona Leney  
AN OLD AFRICAN rebel leader, interviewed recently in the bush at the height of his doomed campaign, summed it all up.

When asked what his first moves would be on taking power, he sighed heavily and said: "Try and think up a good new name for this country; one that hasn't already been filched by a neighbor, that will reassure the international community, the World Bank and the aid organizations (that certainly means putting a "democratic" in there somewhere), that will sound weighty and dignified, but not be too much of a mouthful for foreigners. I've been wracking my brains over it for months..."

In the end, one can't help wondering if the failure of his campaign, and the old man's fight back to his bases in the deep bush, wasn't secretly rather a relief. At least he's got a few more years to think up a really magnificent moniker before trying his luck again.

After all, name changing has a long and honorable tradition to sustain in Africa. The actions of Zaire's—sorry, the Democratic Republic of Congo's—new leader, Laurent Kabila, are only the latest example of such a trend which ranges from the modest (Tanganyika to Tanzania) to the spectacular (Northern Rhodesia to Zambia). Actually, Kabila's choice is intriguing in that it represents a sort of post-modernist name-change. He has dumped the Africanist "Zaire" adopt-

ed by President Mobutu Sese Seko on seizing power after independence in 1960, and has resurrected the country's colonial name of Congo that was originally bestowed on it by its Belgian overlords.

Potentially, this presents a few problems for this "reborn" nation. The first being the little matter of confusion: the country's neighbor also called Congo. This was solved, ingeniously, by adding a "Democratic Republic of" to the new name. Unfortunately, "Democratic Republics" do not have a great historical track record. Just look at some examples.

The German Democratic Republic, a.k.a. the old East Germany, concentrated power and decision making in the hands of Erich Honecker, and his little band of geriatric Communists, enforced by the Stasi, the East German secret police. In the Democratic People's Republic of (North) Korea, which has yet to suffer the fate of Honecker's old stamping ground, elections are indeed held every four years. But there's a little hitch—candidates picked by the Supreme People's Assembly may not be opposed.

In Africa, the Somali Democratic Republic lasted two years after its democratically elected leader was assassinated in 1989, plunging the country into the chaos and bloodshed which continues today.

Ah well, Kabila's choice stands out all the more because other African leaders have often made distinctly political choices in their efforts to shed

CROCKER SNOW JR. IS EDITOR-IN-CHIEF OF THE WORLD PAPER.



## WHAT'S IN A NAME?

## AFRICAN FORMULA

Continued from page 1

the colonial label. Take the old French colony of Upper Volta, for instance. Like the old Congo (alias Zaire, alias the Democratic Republic of Congo), Upper Volta became independent in 1960. It subsequently changed its name, opting for the lyrical title Burkina Faso, "the land of tall men." When, in April 1980, Rhodesia finally became a democratic, independent state, its new, black government chose the name Zimbabwe—taken from the name of the ancient stone ruins in the south-east of the country—to symbolize its African heritage.

One African state that has firmly resisted the rechristening urge, however, is South Africa. It's a shame really, given that its name is accurate, innocuous (no implied honoring of a foreign colonizer, unlike Rhodesia), but pretty boring. On the other hand, these settlers were busy, busy people: enslaving locals and seizing land doesn't leave a man much time for nambypamby naming workshops.

As it is, South Africa's white minority mutters mutinously about having to twist their tongues around new province names such as Gauteng, instead of Pretoria-Witwatersrand-Vereeniging, and Mpumalanga, or "where the sun rises," for the Eastern Transvaal.

And South Africa must be one of the only places on earth where the new political masters still tolerate the names of their old enemies on roads all around them. You can still drive down numerous Verwoerd, D.F. Malan or J.G. Strydom Roads (all three politicians played key roles in setting up and running apartheid). Imagine turning into Rudolf Hess Strasse in Berlin, or scheduling your surgery at the Pol Pot outpatient clinic in Cambodia.

True, there has been some renaming in South Africa, mostly of hospitals. Perhaps the government feels

that while the names of the perpetrators of apartheid are tolerable on a dirty, lethal stretch of freeway, they jar a little in a place of caring.

There was a lot of squawking from both South African rightists and assorted opposition parties when, in April this year, the government renamed some 19 hospitals and other institutions around Johannesburg and Pretoria. Soweto's Baragwanath hospital—the biggest in the world and named originally after a philanthropist from Cornwall in Britain—was renamed the Chris Hani Baragwanath Hospital, in memory of the ANC's murdered military hero.

But the most controversial move was the renaming of the HF Verwoerd hospital in the symbolic heart of Afrikaanderdom, Pretoria. A little band of extreme right-wing Afrikaaners staged a demonstration as workers demolished a bust of the good doctor in the hospital grounds, declaring that Verwoerd had led the country into "a golden era, but Mandela is putting South Africa onto a rubbish dump." They were, however, outnumbered by dancing, chanting workers and patients, many happily wheeling their intravenous drips around with them.

For the hospital, which has changed names for reasons of political expediency three times in its 70 years of existence, it was a case of deja-vu.

"All" said one black hospital worker interviewed on state television, "I remember the last time this happened. I think it's a good idea, but it makes a helluva lot of work redoing all the names on the laundry."

I'll bet the United Nations and international map-makers are thinking the same thing—on a slightly larger scale—about Kabila's bright new idea. ☐

FIONA LENEY IS A JOHANNESBURG-BASED WRITER SPECIALIZING IN SOCIAL ISSUES.

## 'More British than Britain'

## In the Caribbean, pre-colonial signs lead to a multicultural society

By Rendon Eversley

**S**TARTING WITH JAMAICA, a dozen islands that were part of the British Empire have made a peaceful transition from colonial status to independence since 1962. But the change in their political status has not been accompanied by the fervor for name-changing that has characterized much of the post-colonial world.

At independence, 10 of the 12 countries chose to retain their colonial names. Guyana and Belize were the exceptions, but for practical reasons—Guyana's colonial name was British Guiana and Belize's British Honduras. Retaining either name would have symbolically undermined the independent status of both countries.

Acceptance of the colonial legacy—and its nomenclature—in the Caribbean is particularly evident in the names of roads, villages, and public buildings used at the community level. Perhaps the best example is Barbados, a country once described as "more British than Britain."

Unlike most of the neighboring islands, Britain was the sole European colonizer of Barbados. Scotland District, Worthing, Hastings, Trafalgar Square, Dover, Brighton, and Whitehall are among places whose colonial names remain intact, despite 30 years of independence. The same applies to streets and highways bearing the names

of Prince William Henry, King Edward, Queen Mary, Prince of Wales, King William and Princess Alice.

Barbados' main hospital is named after Queen Elizabeth II, who remains the country's constitutional head of state. There is Queen's Park, a major outdoor facility and cultural center named after Queen Victoria, and King George V Memorial Park, in the south eastern parish of St. Philip.

Historian Robert Morris, author of a forthcoming book on Barbadian names, says the retention of colonial names is as much a reflection of the conservative character of Barbados as it is a symbolic acceptance of British colonialism as part of the island's history.

"People are not generally bothered because, after all, what is the impact of a name change," he says. "Indeed, many Barbadians will tell you British colonialism was not all bad and that it actually brought benefits to the island."

Barbados today enjoys the highest quality of life among developing countries, according to the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). This conclusion was reached using the human development index (HDI), devised by UNDP as an alternative to per capita GDP, the traditional yardstick for measuring a country's standard of living.

Carl Jackson, a retired diplomat, offers another explanation for the general acceptance of the colonial legacy in Barbados. It is because, unlike Africa which had a history of independence before colonialism, Barbados and the other Caribbean countries did not have such a background. "Barbados has always been a colony," Jackson says. "We have always accepted our British legacy for the simple reason we have nothing to change it to based on a pre-colonial experience."

As has happened in other islands, independence has nurtured a greater appreciation among Barbadians of what is their own. This new attitude is reflected in an explosion of indigenous Afro-based culture, especially in the last two decades, as well as a growing trend of naming new roads and public buildings after local personalities.

The island's lone international airport, for example, bears the name of Sir Grantley Adams, the first premier. The new



National Insurance building is named after Sir Frank Walcott, a trade union pioneer who played a key role in getting Barbados' social security system established.

Nowadays, there are occasional calls from nationalist-minded Barbadians for the removal of high-profile symbols of colonialism. One candidate for the wrecking ball is the statue of Lord Horatio Nelson which has stood in Trafalgar Square near Parliament Buildings for nearly 200 years—Nelson, reportedly, didn't care too

much about Barbados.

In the early 1970s, a Barbadian member of parliament got the government to change the name of the rural village in which he lived. He reportedly was uncomfortable giving the name "Penny Hole" as his place of abode when he checked into a British hospital. He came up with "Gemsick" as a more fitting replacement.

Despite the name change, the community continues to be "Penny Hole" for the villagers and just about everybody else. The new name clearly presented an image with which they could not identify. Since then, there has been no other attempts to change village names.

Colonial names also dot the landscape of other independent Caribbean countries, but on a smaller scale. In Dominica, which along with Guyana and Trinidad & Tobago opted for republican status after independence, the main hospital carries the name of Britain's Princess Margaret. In the north of the island is the town of Portsmouth, which the British had intended to be the capital but later shelved the plan. There is also Prince Rupert's Bay nearby.

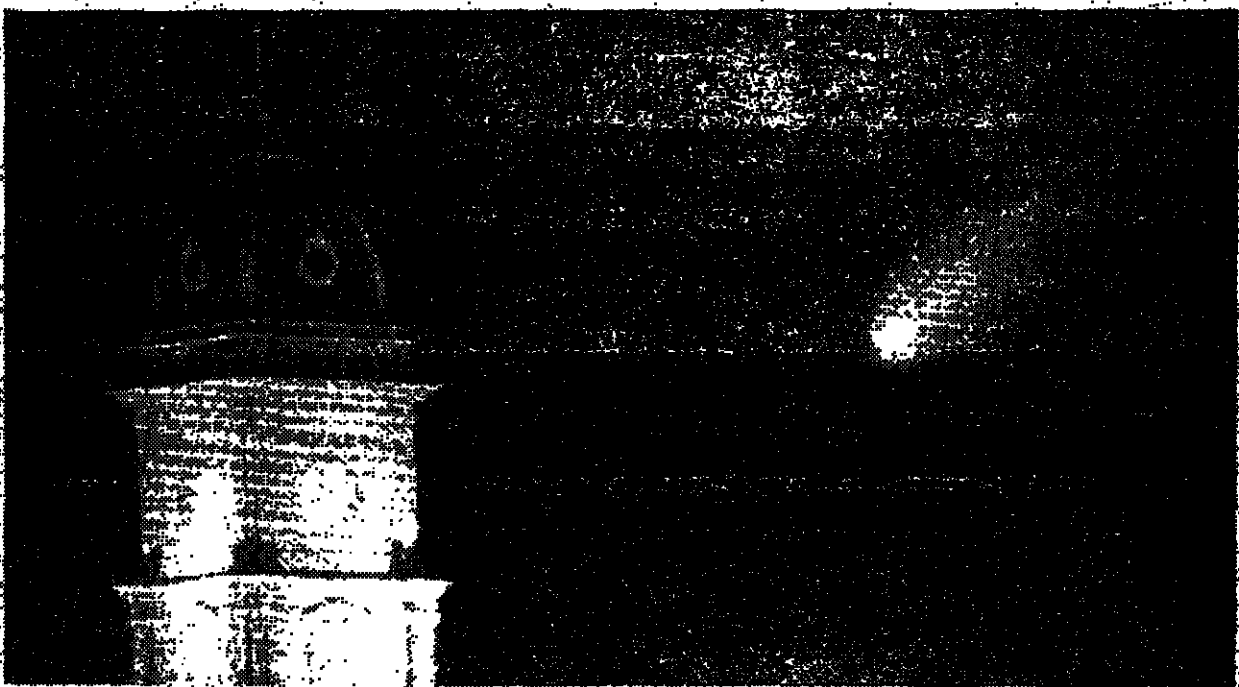
The names of most places in Dominica reflect the influence of France, which was involved in a fierce rivalry with Britain for control of the island. For example, there is Roseau, the capital, and Marigot, Mahaut, Soufriere, La Plaine and Petit Savanne.

St. Lucia and Grenada share a similar legacy as Dominica. In Trinidad and Tobago, where there is a French legacy as well, many names reflect a strong Spanish influence. Port of Spain is the name of the capital and the second city in the south is called San Fernando. There are communities with names like San Juan, Sangre Grande, and Diego Martin.

Social commentators say acceptance of these colonial features from country to country, suggest a consensus among Caribbean people that theirs is a multicultural society. For the foreseeable future, therefore, you can safely say the survival of many colonial-era reminders is assured. ☐

RENDON EVERSLEY IS A BARBADOS-BASED COMMUNICATIONS CONSULTANT.

## Getting a place on the ultimate billboard



What better way of getting your name in bright lights than having a comet named after you. And you don't have to worry about the electric bill.

The road to this kind of immortality runs through the office of Dr. Brian Marsden, whose US-based group, International Astronomical Union, oversees the naming of minor planets and comets from a center in Cambridge.

Thousands of reports come in each month claiming to have discovered new objects in space. As a first step, a newly identified object is given a provisional designation for a year; the initial designation is always numerical. During this year, these objects are researched and observed to determine their orbit and whether or not they are a permanent part of the solar system. If they meet the criteria they are given a permanent name and number. Since the beginning of the 19th century there have been 7,805 objects numbered—5,622 of which have also been named.

The names are generally proposed by the discoverer. Commission 20, a five-member elected panel of the International Astronomical Union (IAU) judges the names. Most are accepted. However, names with political or military connotations from the 20th century are not allowed. While the committee could accept Attila the Hun, Stalin and Mao don't make the cut.

According to the IAU, the names must also be pronounceable and contain no more than 16 characters. Because of the many languages spoken by its members, IAU does not go so far as to specify how the name should be pronounced. Names not originating in the Roman alphabet are transliterated in an acceptable way. And names in "questionable taste" will be rejected.

"When naming an asteroid, it's best to use a broad brush, make it unique and be creative, perhaps name it after someone that you know as opposed to a famous person. I have received greater rewards than money for this," says Ted Bowell the astronomer who is credited with finding and naming more asteroids than anyone else.

Finding a new planetary body is—unless you are really lucky—a time-consuming and painstaking process. The temptation to finance a short-cut is powerful. And long-standing. In 1986 Baroness Bettina Rothschild subsidized the discovery of "asteroid 250" for approximately 50 British pounds, in effect buying the privilege of having asteroid named "Bettina" after her. In today's world, where everything is seemingly available for sponsorship, is it possible for Coca-Cola to sponsor an astronomer and have the planet they find be named planet Coca-Cola?

Maybe.

"Outright commercial naming is frowned upon," says Marsden, who said that serious astronomers scoff at organizations like the International Star Registry, which for US\$50 will name a star for you and publish it in a book entitled *Your Place in the Cosmos*. But he concedes that, if supervised properly, commercial naming of asteroids and comets in outer space could be a valuable way to aid the poorly funded science communities that do this work.

—By Orin Youngs

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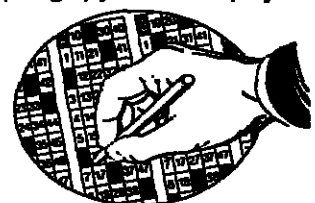
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### Amman cinemas

- Philadelphia I (Tel: 634149):  
*The Lost World (Jurassic Park)*
- Philadelphia II (Tel: 634149):  
*Liar Liar*
- Plaza (Tel: 699238):  
*Devil's Own / The English Patient*
- Concord I (Tel: 677420):  
*Batman & Robin*
- Concord II (Tel: 677420):  
*Dumb & Dumber*

### Movies & Videos



## Face Off

Relentless FBI agent Sean Archer (Travolta) must dangerously go undercover to investigate the location of a lethal biological weapon planted by his arch-rival, the sadistic terrorist-for-hire Castro Troy (Nicolas Cage). Directed by John Woo.

#### ENGLISH PROGRAMS

##### SATURDAY

- 2:00—Holy Koran
- 2:10—Twinkle
- 2:30—Wishbone
- 3:00—Blue Heelers
- 3:30—World of Geo
- 4:00—The Vally Between
- 4:30—Tilt
- 5:00—French Programs
- 7:30—News Headlines
- 7:35—Neighbors
- 8:00—Ties that Bind
- 8:30—Prism
- 9:10—Time Trax
- 10:00—News at Ten
- 10:30—Feature Film
- 12:00—Ellen

##### SUNDAY

- 2:00—Holy Koran
- 2:10—Cartoon
- 3:00—Energy Express
- 4:00—American Chart Show
- 6:00—French Programs
- 7:00—News in French
- 7:30—News Headlines
- 7:35—Fresh Prince of Bel Air
- 8:00—Cinema, Cinema, Cinema
- 8:30—National Geographic
- 9:10—Renegade
- 10:00—News at Ten
- 10:30—One West Walkiki
- 11:15—Sisters

##### MONDAY

- 2:00—Holy Koran
- 3:10—Cartoon
- 3:30—Gillette Sports Special
- 3:30—Deep Water Have
- 4:00—Animal Show
- 4:30—Ocean Girl
- 5:15—French Programs
- 7:30—News Headlines
- 7:30—News Headlines
- 7:35—Neighbors
- 8:00—Murphy Brown
- 8:30—Babylon 5
- 9:10—Highlander



Homicide—Life on the Street, Monday at 11:15 pm

##### TUESDAY

- 2:00—Holy Koran
- 2:05—French Programmes
- 3:00—Square Show
- 3:30—Dog House
- 4:30—The Album Show
- 5:15—French Programs
- 7:00—News in French
- 7:30—News Headlines
- 7:35—Coach
- 8:00—Tilt
- 8:30—Encounter
- 9:10—Nature of Things
- 10:00—News at Ten
- 10:30—West Beach
- 11:15—Mini Series

##### WEDNESDAY

- 2:00—Holy Koran

##### FRIDAY

- 2:00—Holy Koran
- 2:05—Cartoons
- 3:00—French Programs
- 4:00—Family Matters
- 4:30—NBA
- 6:10—French Film
- 7:00—News in French
- 7:30—News Headlines
- 7:35—Neighbors
- 8:00—The Health Show
- 8:30—Hawkeye (Drama)
- 9:10—Drama Series
- 10:00—News at Ten
- 10:30—Mini Series
- 12:00—Feature Film

##### PROGRAMMES EN FRANÇAIS

##### SAMEDI

- 5:00—Qui est qui ?
- 5:30—Des chiffres et des lettres
- 6:00—Le cinéma égyptien
- 7:00—Le journal
- 7:15—Magazine L'oeuf de Colomb

##### DIMANCHE

- 5:00—Qui est qui ?
- 5:30—Des chiffres et des lettres
- 6:00—Magazine Faut pas rêver
- 7:00—Le journal
- 7:15—Magazine pour tous Ziva

Programs are subject to change by JTV

##### LUNDI

- 5:00—Qui est qui ?
- 5:30—Des chiffres et des lettres
- 6:00—Thalassa
- 7:00—Le journal
- 7:15—Magazine scientifique Cinq sur cinq

##### MARDI

- 5:00—Qui est qui ?
- 5:30—Des chiffres et des lettres
- 6:00—Captain Café Emission de variétés
- 7:00—Le journal
- 7:15—Orient sur Seine

##### MERCREDI

- 5:00—Qui est qui ?
- 5:30—Des chiffres et des lettres
- 6:00—Magazine Ushuaia
- 7:00—Le journal
- 7:15—Magazine Ziva

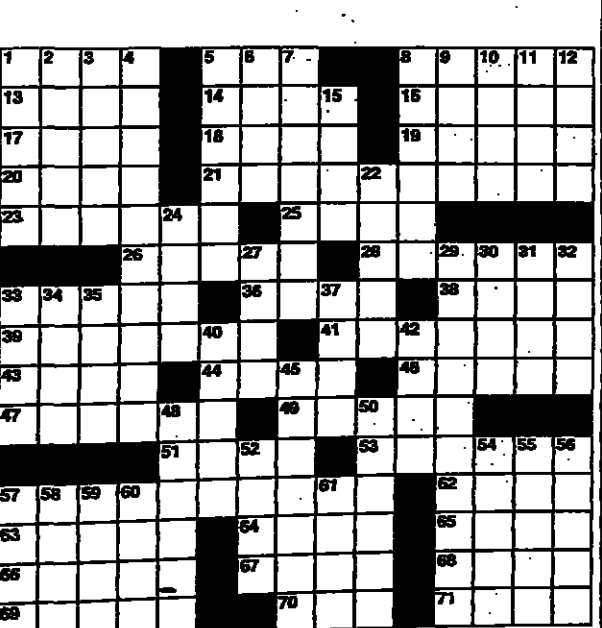
##### JEUDI

- 5:00—Qui est qui ?
- 5:30—Divertissement Taratata
- 7:00—Le journal
- 7:15—Le dessous des cartes

##### VENREDI

- 3:30—Divertissement L'école des fans
- 5:30—Quai numéro 1 - 1/3
- 7:00—Le journal
- 7:15—Magazine Allo la terre

### CROSSWORD PUZZLE



- ACROSS
- 1 Bridges
  - 5 Dunderhead
  - 8 Relinquish as an office
  - 13 Hebrew measure
  - 14 Cork site
  - 16 Enclave
  - 17 Beverage
  - 18 British P.M., once
  - 19 More elegant
  - 20 Harrow rival
  - 21 Mexican emperor
  - 22 Washington
  - 23 Elvis to some
  - 26 NFL Hall-of-Famer Bobby
  - 28 Insect
  - 33 Rich Little, for one
  - 35 Cobras
  - 38 Season cousin
  - 39 Embarrassed
- DOWN
- 1 Bartered
  - 2 Overact
  - 3 Landbreaker
  - 4 Composer of rhapsodies
  - 5 Proper
  - 6 Verd
  - 7 Notorious
  - 8 Loin Valley
  - 9 August
  - 10 Cornubian
  - 11 Aliens: pret.
  - 12 Hiroshima, Mon—
  - 13 Bordin
  - 14 Prince
  - 15 Premiering
  - 16 Crazed
  - 17 Rough-hewn
  - 18 Allowance
  - 19 Babbie on
  - 20 Woodsman's tool
  - 21 All— (scarcely attentive)
  - 22 England
  - 23 Herby heroine
  - 24 Trading center
  - 25 Long-billed bird
  - 26 Jane to Tarzan
  - 27 Blueprint
  - 28 —figs
  - 29 Gaseous element
  - 30 Central American capital
  - 31 Four
  - 32 Successor to 21A
  - 33 Arab prince
  - 34 Tropical fish
  - 35 Stage direction
  - 36 Smudges
  - 37 Pack down
  - 38 —Karyam
  - 39 Columist
  - 40 Barrett
  - 41 Bow out
  - 42 Connecticut senator

### —THIS WEEK'S— HOROSCOPE

By Linda Black

**Weekly Tip:** There's a grand time in fire signs, bringing a light-hearted mood. Perseverance pays.

**Aries (March 21-April 19):** A surprise opens great possibilities. A career advance can bring more money. Show 'em you've got what it takes to do the job.

**Taurus (April 20-May 20):** Worries about living arrangements will fade. Everything will work out fine. Buy something you need for your place.

**Gemini (May 21-June 21):** There's one hassle after another. Get a partner to help. The problem will be solved soon, and it's full speed ahead.

**Cancer (June 22-July 22):** There's not enough money to buy presents for a loved one. Make your gift instead. An unexpected occurrence makes the impossible seem doable.

**Leo (July 23-Aug. 22):** Make money from home. Play with your sweetheart and/or kids. You'll be a lot luckier at games soon.

**Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22):** Concentrate. Have people over. It'll be easier to get the living environment you want soon. Learn with a passion.

**Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 23):** Check with friends before buying a big item. Learning will be fun and you'll have a breakthrough.

**Scorpio (Oct. 24-Nov. 21):** You'll run into hassles, but you're sharp. Watch your wallet. Don't make a lot of a flaky co-worker.

**Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21):** Dispel your early morning worries by talking with an older person. You'll be back on track soon. Your self-esteem increases.

**Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19):** Ask a friend to help. You'll find the answer. Scrutinize your worries and you'll have a breakthrough. Old fears will fade.

**Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18):** Follow an older person. Relax with friends. An unexpected development gives your team a boost. Pay attention to the whispers.

**Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20):** You can't go as far as you'd like, but that's OK. Watch for a career opportunity and grab it. Your wanderlust drives you crazy. Travel with a friend.

**If You're Having a Birthday This Week:** An initial struggle produces positive results. You're lucky and getting luckier. The truth will be revealed.

### Bridge

Where's the 12th Trick?  
By Omar Sharif and Tannah Hirsch

Both vulnerable. North deals.

**NORTH**  
♠ A 9 6 3  
♥ A 6 3  
♦ K 7 4  
♣ A Q 9

**WEST**  
♠ K J 5 4 2  
♥ 9 8  
♦ Q 8  
♣ J 8 7 3

**EAST**  
♠ 10 8 7  
♥ 7 5 2  
♦ J 10 9 6 5  
♣ 10 4

**SOUTH**  
♠ Q  
♥ K Q J 10 4  
♦ A 3 2  
♣ K 6 5 2

The bidding:  
North East South West  
1NT Pass 3♥ Pass  
3♠ Pass 4NT Pass  
5♠ Pass 6♥ Pass

Opening lead: Nine of ♣  
Making six hearts on this deal is purely a matter of technique. How would you go about it after a trump lead?

Note North's advance cue-bid in response to South's jump to three hearts. With 17 points almost all in prime cards and three-card support.

North was correct to announce a maximum hand in support of hearts. South needed no further encouragement to contract for slam.

Declarer can count 11 fast tricks. One way to establish the 12th is to draw trumps and hope that clubs split evenly, in which case South's fourth club becomes the fulfilling trick. That, however, is almost two-to-one against.

It is better to draw just two rounds of trumps and then try to cash three rounds of clubs. If the suit splits, or if the player with short clubs also has no more than two trumps, declarer can ruff a club in dummy. But that, too, is slightly against the odds — the player who is short in clubs rates to have the long trump.

The best line is to find out first if trumps are breaking 3-2. If so, declarer can come to 12 tricks with little or no risk.

Win the first trick in hand and cash another high trump. If both defenders follow, abandon trumps in favor of crossing to the ace of spades and ruffing a spade in hand. Now use the ace and queen of clubs as entries to ruff two more spades, then get back to dummy with the king of diamonds to draw the last trump with the ace. Declarer takes three trump tricks, the ace of spades, three spade ruffs, two diamonds and three clubs — 12 tricks in all.

### TRUE! By Daryl Cagle



Saks Fifth Avenue stores introduced a new mannequin (Frannie); she's 6 feet tall, wears a size six, and is described as the "ideal woman of the '90s." The average woman is 5-foot 4-inches and wears a size 10-12 dress.

### Jumble

Unscramble these four words, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

LYAID  
GEDEH  
TULFAY  
NARROC

Answer here: THE "O O O O" O O O O

Set — THE "O O O O" O O O O

Answer: WHAT THE WALL-PAPER APPRENTICE COULDN'T SEEM TO GET.

### Would You Believe...

It's hair can stretch 25 percent of its length without breaking.

In times of the ancient Romans, a temple dedicated to the worship of all gods was called a pantheon.

Georgia was the last Confederate state readmitted to the Union after the Civil War.

Her name was Soeur Sourire, but people probably knew her better as The Singing Nun.

A mating pair of rats can produce 15,000 offspring within a year.

Ty Cobb got his 4,000th hit in the major leagues in 1927.

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### THE FIRST HALF OF OUR LIFE IS RUINED BY OUR PARENTS. THE SECOND HALF BY OUR CHILDREN.



## Relations israélo-arabes

*Le processus de paix est dans l'impasse et le pessimisme est de rigueur. Les différents acteurs s'acharnent encore à parler de négociations. Mais pour le gouvernement israélien, ce mot ne semble qu'une coquille vide.*

Cette politique, qui lui a permis pendant un an de respecter ses promesses électorales et de conserver le soutien des États-Unis, Les Américains acceptent tous les prétextes invoqués par Israël et évitent ainsi de critiquer leur allié sursariable dans la région. Il y a une semaine, Madeleine Albright, le chef de la diplomatie américaine recommandait une «accélération» des négociations sur le statut final (qui englobent notamment la question très controversée de Jérusalem). Plusieurs analystes se sont demandé si les États-Unis n'avaient pas accédé à la

Ces bombes ont aussi suscité

« Un premier pétrolier est arrivé en début de semaine au port turc de Ceyhan sur la Méditerranée pour charger du pétrole irakien. D'autres navires sont attendus ces jours-ci. « Dix-huit pétroliers géants devraient faire halte dans les ports de Ceyhan et au terminal de Mina al-Bakr (sud de l'Irak, sur le Golfe) pour y charger 30 millions de barils avant fin août », précise Amr Rachid, le ministre irakien du pétrole. L'Irak est autorisé par l'Onu à exporter, depuis décembre 1996, du brut pour deux milliards de dollars par semestre - en deux tranches d'un milliard par trimestre - pour acheter des vivres et des médicaments selon l'accord « pétrole contre nourriture ». Le comité des sanctions a approuvé une nouvelle formule de fixation des prix du brut irakien (autre photo) permettant à Bagdad de reprendre ses exportations pour le deuxième semestre. Une fois les contrats approuvés par l'Onu, l'Irak commencera à exporter effectivement son brut. L'Irak a cependant décidé la semaine dernière de ne pas renouveler ses contrats avec des compagnies japonaises, britanniques et néerlandaises, sans identifier ces firmes ni préciser les raisons de sa décision. Selon Amr Rachid, les contrats seraient conclus en priorité avec les compagnies « des pays amis ».



*Pendant un an, les Jordaniens ont reçu des informations sur cette terrible maladie. Dans les pharmacies ou les hôpitaux ? Non, dans les mosquées. Une campagne de sensibilisation au goût de prière, dont les conséquences pour le recul de l'affection sont encore difficiles à évaluer.*

24% de jeunes gens sont diabétiques et que 40% des personnes âgées de plus de 40 ans souffrent de cette maladie. Ces pourcentages risquent d'augmenter si aucune disposition n'est envisagée». Interrogée sur les causes de cette maladie, le médecin précise que la nourriture est largement responsable. «La graisse constitue l'essentiel de l'alimentation jordanienne. Comme vous le savez, elle entraîne l'obésité ce qui accenue les possibilités de contracter la maladie».

Le ministère s'est donc mis à préparer une campagne d'information avec le centre national du diabète. La Jordanie était divisée en trois régions : le nord, le centre et le sud. Dans chaque région, les imams étaient invités à participer à des séminaires.

«L'islam aborde tous les aspects de la vie humaine et représente ainsi le meilleur véhicule de l'information». *Hamdi Murad, secrétaire général adjoint au ministère des affaires religieuses.*

*de temps pour réaliser le bien  
que nous avons fait pour la so-  
ciété».*

### Une maladie ignorée

En effet, les résultats ne sont pas directement visibles dans les rues d'Amman. Il faut discuter avec les habitants de la capitale pour se rendre compte que tous ces efforts n'ont pas été vains. Qu'ils fréquentent les mosquées ou non, beaucoup en connaissent aujourd'hui davantage sur le diabète, ses symptômes et son traitement.

Comme cette femme qui maintenant porte ses médicaments sur elle où qu'elle aille. « Je ne savais pas qu'une telle maladie existait », avoue-t-elle. Mais je remarquais que j'avais tout le temps soif, que j'allais souvent aux toilettes et que je me sentais fatiguée au moindre exercice physique à la maison. Mais l'idée d'être malade ne me venait jamais venue à l'esprit. En fait, j'ai appris que j'étais diabétique grâce aux informations communiquées dans les mosquées, ce qui m'a encoura-

gée à aller voir un médecin. Celui-ci m'a alors confirmé que j'avais du diabète».

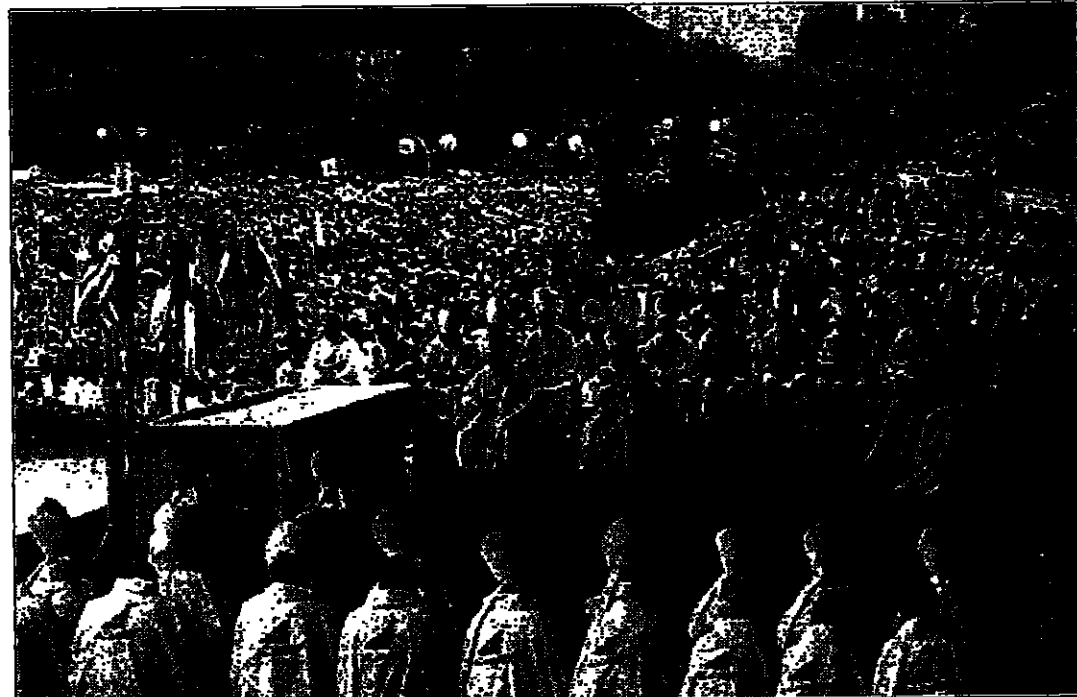
Aujourd'hui, les Jordaniens sont mis en garde : « *mielz vaut prévenir que guérir* », dit le proverbe. A fortiori quand les traitements sont très chers comme en Jordanie, surtout pour ceux qui ne bénéficient pas d'une assurance médicale. ■

**Rana Kawaar-Bagaceer**

## XIIèmes Journées mondiales de la jeunesse

*Ils sont partis dimanche dernier pour la France, tout excités à l'idée de voir Jean-Paul II. Pendant une semaine, ces jeunes croyants seront les représentants de la communauté catholique de Jordanie qui compte un évêque et 50.000 fidèles. Ils préparent leur séjour de longue date et sont prêts à confronter leur foi à celle des 140 autres nationalités présentes à Paris.*

**Créées par** Jean-Paul II en 1985, les Journées mondiales de la jeunesse (JMJ) sont célébrées chaque année par toutes les Eglises catholiques du monde et donnent lieu tous les deux ans à un rassemblement monstre. En 1995, les célébrations se déroulaient à Marseille. Les Français, qui pour rien y avait pris part, «*Manque de mayens*», se souvient Maher Kandah, bénévole et secrétaire général des comités de jeunesse en Jordanie. Dimanche dernier aux aurores, c'est un groupe de quatre prêtres et plus de cent jeunes de 18 à 35 ans, qui a pris les airs depuis l'aéroport de Tel Aviv en Israël. Cela revenait moins cher que de partir d'Amman sur un vol de la Royal Jordanian. Les catholiques jordaniens en ont donc profité. Ils ont, en compte, le séjour en France, tous frais payés, revient seulement à 3500 francs par personne. «*Bien sûr pour ce prix-là, ils ne vont pas dormir à l'hôtel*», précise Khatam Hattar, qui s'est occupée de l'organisation. Qu'importe, ils ont prévu le sac de couchage. Les jeunes volontaires ont bien préparé leur voyage. À leur départ, chacun a reçu un t-shirt imprimé du logo des JMJ.



**Rassemblement à Manille.** Cette année à Paris, sur l'hippodrome de Longchamp, les organisateurs attendent plus de 650.000 personnes : mieux que pour les Rolling Stones.

Ils ont également emporté dans leurs bagages des petits souvenirs de Jérash et de Pétra qu'ils ont l'intention de distribuer dans les autres communautés.

Sans oublier bien sûr un livret contenant le programme des Journées, l'histoire de France avec le découpage des diocèses, des psaumes et la fameuse let-

Depuis janvier, ils ont en effet étudié avec les prêtres l'appel que le pape leur lance dans cette missive : vivre es-

marque de son côté  
Abiir Nijmeh qui en  
raison de son travail n'a  
pu accompagner sa  
jeune sœur.

Avant de rejoindre Paris du 18 au 24 août, les Jordaniens sont aujourd'hui à Lourdes, la cité des miracles dans le sud de la France, un des lieux de pèlerinage français les plus fréquentés et les plus populaires dans le monde. Mais bien sûr, tous ces jeunes attendent avec impatience de rencontrer le pape : « Elle était tout heureuse à l'idée de rencontrer Jean-Paul II », raconte Bassima Odeh à propos de sa sœur Rouba. *nous* avons une idée spéciale du pape ; pour nous, c'est un *grameen homme*. Il se peut cependant qu'au milieu de la foule des fidèles Rouba, comme la plupart de ses camarades n'aperçoive *sa* Saïneïe.

jeunes -une ou deux personnes par pays- choisis pour participer à un forum de discussion et de préparation des offices, auront sans doute le privilège de lui serrer la main. Maher se rappelle que pour les JMJ de Denver en 1993, le pape en personne lui avait donné la communion et un rosaire qu'il garde depuis toujours sur lui.

Le dernier jour des Journées mondiales de la jeunesse, ils seront plus de 650.000 jeunes à partager leur foi avec le pape Jean-Paul II. La cérémonie sera suivie sur l'hippodrome de Longchamp d'une gigantesque repas. Le Saint-Père pourra alors s'enorgueillir de faire huit fois mieux que les Rolling Stones. ■

**Yannick Laine**

Yannick Laine

Alain Azais combat-  
tants s'en occupent  
depuis 1973. Mais  
l'approche commer-  
ciales des différen-  
ts bureaux d'études  
pour lesquels il a-  
vait travaillé ne lui  
donnant pas satis-  
faction, il monte  
son propre bureau  
d'étude en 1992,  
sous la forme d'une  
entreprise indivi-  
duelle. Il a une ex-  
périence en poche :  
ses connaissances  
techniques et sa ma-  
tière grise. « Mon  
idéal était de faire  
mes preuves pen-  
dant quelques an-  
nées sans de gros  
investissements. Je  
me disais que  
moins j'aurais  
d'aides artificielles,  
mon approche per-  
sonnelle serait plus  
perceptible ».

Il bénéficie tout  
d'un prêt sans  
émiettement Tarnais  
du département  
des créateurs d'entre-  
prise accordé aux  
créateurs d'entrepre-  
neurs qui permet  
de réunir les  
francs nécessaires à  
l'un d'entrepre-  
neurs d'un petit  
matériau d'entre-  
prise.



### Luminaire à Saïda

des tarifs progressifs en fonction des commandes enregistrées.

### Beyrouth et le Caire

Alain Azais effectue ses premiers travaux dans le Tarn : éclairage de banques, de cabinets médicaux, de commerces, d'usines ensuite. Après ces quelques réalisations, tout s'enchaîne. EDF lui commande un gros chantier : la conception de l'éclairage du musée du Louvre, à Paris.

Désormais connu et reconnu, souvent consulté comme expert, l'éclairagiste franchit alors les frontières : Le conseil régional Midi-Pyrénées l'envoie au Liban dans le cadre d'une mission de conseil. L'éclairage du souk de Tripoli est presque terminé, celui du souk de Saïda est en cours. Au début je me suis fondé dans la population pour voir ce dont les gens qui vivent, travaillent et vivent dans le souk avaient besoin. Nous avons transformé une rue entière en respectant les couleurs et les ambiances. Il ne fallait pas braver les nouvelles sources lumineuses, les lampes à sodium blanc. Et nous avons mis au point un luminaire de type original fabri-

qué au Liban avec des matériaux locaux». Sur les projets initiaux se greffent celui du jardin central de Tripoli et l'éclairage de plusieurs immeubles.

Azali, qui investit beaucoup de temps dans ces travaux à l'étranger, n'a pas fait fortune, même s'il gagne maintenant bien sa vie et a embauché une personne. Son chiffre d'affaire annuel a augmenté : cela lui permet de prendre des cours d'arabe. Devenu consultant auprès de l'UNESCO, il se penche maintenant sur les projets de rénovation du centre ancien du Caire. ■

**Sylvie Thomas**

**Le Jourdain,  
on y revient.  
Tous les jeudis  
dans le Star  
645 380**

## Les IMI en chiffres

650 000 tonnes de déchets ont été envoyés aux usines et sauront la même chose par Jean-Paul II le 24 août au "Déjeuner de Lough Erne".

250 semi-remorques sont mobilisés pour transporter plus d'un million de déchets.

5 continents, 140 nationalités.

4 semi-remorques d'hosties, 200 litres de vin de messe : deux millions d'hosties ont été fabriquées en Asie car la France ne pouvait pas les produire dans ses usinastries.

C'est autour de 350 tonnes de 2,20 mètres de diamètre, capable chacune de réchauffer 800 repas à l'heure que la Société nationale d'éclairage et allume.

C'est le ponturier Jean-Charles de Castelbajac qui a dessiné les sac-sacs souvenirs et surdimensionnés, emballés dans des sacs (une couleur par continent). Toutes seront empaquetées dans 100 sacs de 5 tonnes.

Sur l'hélicoptère du Pape, François Colap : un sac de plastique spécial pour protéger les papes d'un culte de 5 à 8 millions.

Participations militaires de chaque pays : 310 troupes.

Budget : 280 millions de francs français, soit 70 milliards de francs par l'Eglise.

1000







## INTERNET SPECIAL

# THE STAR'S WORKSTATION COMPUTING & HIGH TECH

Edited by Zeid Nasser

## Computer &amp; IT companies !!

Welcome to The Star's Workstation, the absolute source on what's hot and what's not in Jordan's IT market. Fax us on 648298 or email us at [Star@NETS.com.jo](mailto:Star@NETS.com.jo) with your news and views.

The Internet needs a real estate agent, fast:

## Pressure on 'net', a recipe for its collapse?

By Jabra Ghneim

*Special to The Star*  
I FEEL overwhelmed sometimes when I think of all the things that we have come to expect from our computers. A few years ago, all I needed was a 286 with WordPerfect, and a terminal to hook me to a Unix workstation through which I sent e-mail and crunched numbers for my research. Currently, I use my computer to crunch over 100,000 words a week, retrieve my e-mail, browse the Internet, and process images. Luckily, Moore's law still holds: processors' speeds double every 18 months. Unfortunately, Moore's law doesn't apply to telecommunications technology. A big chunk of our computer activity now depends on phone lines.

Before the end of this century 90 percent of our computer activity will be transacted through the telecommunications system. The following is a snapshot of what we will be doing with computers in the next century:

## 1. Video Conferencing

The technology is already here and has been used by businesses for many years now. The problem is, the technology has advanced and become so cheap. It is already in many homes. If you have Internet Explorer, then you have Net-meeting capabilities. Adding to that a desktop video camera for about \$200, and a sound card; you can make phone calls to people with compatible equipment and see achieve visual contact online.

## 2. Internet Phone call

All you need is a sound card and a microphone attached to the computer. The result,

cheap phone calls across the Internet to people with compatible equipment.

3. Voice Mail  
Dictate e-mail directly to a computer and send it as sound or as a sound attachment.  
4. Data Transmission  
Add to all the above the fact



that we use our current telecommunications systems to send megabytes of images, animations, files, Web pages, etc.; even samples of movies and music CDs.

The capability to deal with the above expectations is being built into many phones in the Western World. The reader can imagine the kind of stress these Terabytes of data would put on a system that was designed with a 3 minutes average length per phone call.

Technologies to solve the congestion problems on phone lines are in the works. Still, the huge adaptation rate of the Internet outgrows advancements in telecommunications sciences and gear. This takes us to the next topic.

Almost everybody now thinks of e-mail to be one of his/her inalienable rights. Few people pay for it, and most get

it through work or through academic institution.

In the good old days when I was a student, I used the Internet for at least 10 hours a day. It was a shock to pay my first Internet bill here in Jordan. The fact is, Internet users never think of the huge costs associated with building the infrastructure necessary to establish connections.

We also underestimate the role governments play in hiking up the costs associated with adopting any new technology. The number of users on the Internet is increasing geometrically, people have come to expect so much of their computers and are using them in ways unimaginable just a couple of years ago.

Many service providers give unlimited access to the Internet for unbelievably low prices.

The result: congestion of the phone system. AOL, a big provider of On-line services in the US, has gone off-line twice so far this year due to congestion. The Internet real estate is becoming smaller every day and to control it, prices have to be high in the initial stages, or in the short run.

New service providers are realizing that fact. In countries like the US, the telephone companies have asked the government to prevent the unlimited access practice and charge for 'per minute' of use. As infrastructures improve, and factors like economies of scale and competition kick in simultaneously, prices will go down.

Then, for sure, the Internet will be the Utopia all of us would like it to be. ■

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Jordan Computer Center introduces a very impressive product:

## Internet via satellite, hook up to the skies

INTERNET USERS all over the world are beginning to feel the need for faster, more satisfactory access times due to the more demanding nature of Internet content. Multimedia applications on the Internet are draining networks of their speed and are resulting, in many cases, in less than satisfactory performance for users.

On the other hand, the explosive growth in the number of users on the Internet is taking up the bandwidth allocated to service providers, also resulting in slower access rates.

Internet Service Providers (ISPs) are having to increase their capacity continuously to meet growing demand, facing the bottlenecks of undeveloped telecommunications infrastructures in many countries or the limitations of their own services.

This is where innovative solutions, based on wide-bandwidth media can step in a viable option needed to provide the service level required.

A company based in Amman, has managed to be among the first internationally to provide a solution. The Jordan Computer Center (JCC) recently introduced its solution called SkyLynx, which delivers Internet via satellite. Utilizing the medium of digitally transmitted data over satellite channels, users can enjoy high access rates. The SkyLynx solution offers digital information that is broadcast at speeds of up to 90 Kbps, which can be upgraded to 2 Mbps. This will greatly improve the speed of multimedia services for end users in the Middle East, and it will make it possible to download huge files in a very short time, for larger number of customers at a reasonable cost.

The main principle behind Internet via satellite is simple. There is an already installed base of PCs and satellite receiver equipment in both homes and offices. Users can hook up their PCs to a satellite receiver, through a special hardware card that is part of the SkyLynx solution. Then Internet access can be established by tuning into an audio channel previously identified by your Internet Service Provider. Already, JCC has reached an agreement with Europe Business News (EBN) by which users can tune into an audio channel carried by EBN on EntelSat to use the service.

JCC has worked with project partners in the United Kingdom to tap into the opportunities that satellites can play in improving Internet services, said Mr. Hazem Milhem, general manager at the Jordan Computer Center. Commenting on how the service could be supplied to the end user, Mr. Milhem said that, "Our solution does not by-pass any infrastructure or regulatory body. We are currently talking to Internet Service Providers to introduce



Mr. Hazem Milhem, (JCC)

Internet via satellite as an added service to their clients. After all, all that is needed to receive the service is a PC equipped with a receiver card, hooked up to a normal satellite dish receiver."

The SkyLynx solution is an ideal technical and economic solution for multimedia services, that require high speed access, transmission of graphics and image-oriented files, multi-casting and information broadcasting. The SkyLynx solution will serve demanding users such as banks, large corporations, educational institutions and others, who need fast, efficient access to information.

For more information, contact JCC at telephone 962-6-679616, fax 962-6-606900 or email [jcc@go.com.jo](mailto:jcc@go.com.jo) ■

## News update

## Plans for Windows 98 &amp; Windows 95 update

Microsoft is planning to provide Windows 98 with Internet Explorer's latest version fully integrated into this new operating system. Explorer has already been downloaded by millions of users worldwide and is undergoing constant development, as part of Microsoft's effort to muscle Netscape out of the browser market. For now, Microsoft is soon announcing an upgrade to Windows 95 at the beginning of next year.

## Chip manufacturers race to expand

The microchip race is on among the leading manufacturers, Intel and National Semiconductor, both of whom are expanding operations with buy-outs and alliances. Intel

announced recently that it is buying Chips & Technologies Inc. for \$420 million. The acquisition aims to strengthen Intel's production of chips that provide 3-D graphics and video capabilities for PCs.

National Semiconductor,

bought Cyrix, the arch rival of Intel, for a value of around \$530 million. The idea is to tap into the computer chip market, which is expanding, sighting growth in sectors where computer-based technologies will be utilized for daily life uses.



# Rounding up the world of soccer

By Alex Johnson

**The Americas**  
Argentina: The strike that silenced Argentine soccer stadiums for two weeks ended last week when a judge released six players for Deportivo Espanol, who were out of contract and wanted to leave immediately. The judge had refused to let them leave because they were counted as assets of the all-but-broke club, meaning they couldn't move until all creditors had been paid. The deadlock was broken when the federation agreed to put up a \$2 million guarantee for the six players. Play resumed last week, and by the weekend, River Plate wrapped up the championship, beating Velez Sarsfield 2-0 at home on goals by Enzo Francescoli. Second-place Newell's Old Boys was eliminated by a 4-1 loss to lightly regarded Ferro Carril Oeste at home, no less.

**United States:** National team coach Steve Sampson blasted Major League Soccer for scheduling too many games, complaining that players are being worked beyond their limits and thereby jeopardizing their chances to qualify for next year's World Cup final round. "You wait and see," Sampson said of the league schedule that routinely forces teams to play two games in less than 48 hours in the middle of summer. "They are

going to pull up with injuries.... You are going to see a lower level of play because Americans are tired." Already, the top American striker, Eric Wynalda of San Jose, has missed several games with an injury, and Sampson last week learned that Joe-Max Moore of New England is done for the year with a bad ankle.

**Europe**  
Albania: FIFA said it would decide this week on a location for Albania's home World Cup qualifier against Northern Ireland on Sept. 10. Because of the civil war, FIFA had ordered Albania to stage all of its home qualifiers in Spain, where it has already played Germany and Ukraine, but FIFA officials, after visiting Albania, have said they may reconsider and allow the Northern Ireland game to be played in Tirana after the league playoffs resumed over the weekend. However, the decision is likely to go against the Albanians after players for Flamurtari walked off the field to protest a non-call on what they considered a clear penalty against Tirana in the decisive playoff game over the weekend. That set off riots around the stadium in Vlore, which evolved into new anti-government violence in which four protesters were arrested.

**England:** The stadium craze reached a new high last week when Manchester



Ronaldo

City of the First Division said it was considering ditching famous old Maine Road in favor of a new arena being built for the 2002 Commonwealth Games. After 77 years, Maine Road is still one of the premier stadiums in England, but Chairman Francis Lee said that "if you have the opportunity to move to one of the best stadiums in Europe, you really have to look at it very, very seriously." The prospect of doing anything constructive must be intoxicating for Lee, who has spent the last year being rejected by high-profile coaches who want nothing to do with the front-office chaos at City.

**France:** Paris Saint Germain's on-again, off-again deal with FC Porto for Brazilian international midfielder Edmundo is on again, as the club announced last week that it has finalized negotiations to acquire him for about \$3 million. The deal was clinched when PSG agreed to throw in Portuguese international defender Daniel Kennedy on top of the money. Kennedy returns to Lisbon after having previously played for Benfica.

**Georgia:** The federation is bickering internally over reports that four players had been dropped from the national team for their alleged "lack of patriotism." Vice President Nodar Adigadze said last week that Kakhaber Tskhadadze (Alania Vladikavkaz), Gocha Dzhamarauli (Trabzonspor), Mikheil Kavashvili and Georgy Nemsadze (both Grasshopper Zurich) had been removed from the squad because they'd made excessive financial demands and threw an "excessively boozey" party after a 4-1 World Cup qualifying loss to Poland in June. Then, federation President Nodar Alkhaktsiashvili emerged from his hospital bed

to deny the order. As for the players, they're not commenting.

**Greece:** The breathtaking \$4 million that Olympiakos sent to Kalamata for 17-year-old Ghanisian Peter Oforiaye paid immediate dividends last week as Oforiaye scored in exhibitions against Leicester City and Lazio. The fee for Oforiaye, who joined Kalamata at age 15, was the second-highest ever paid for a teenager, behind only the \$7 million that Barcelona paid for Ronaldo last year, and we all know how that investment turned out.

**Holland:** Telstar of the First Division (the Dutch B league) last week cut four players accused of having sex with a 15-year-old girl. No criminal charges were filed against Benito Cooman, Ray Inge, Dave Kuypers and Orphée Nok because the girl didn't report the incident to police, but club Chairman Jan de Wit said that didn't matter. "Our reputation has been sullied," said de Wit, who noted that even if the alleged acts were consensual, the legal age of consent in Holland is 16.

**Italy:** Italian referees trotted out their annual promise to crack down on violent play last week. Without naming him, referee supervisor Fabio Baldas indicated that he was especially concerned about attempts to stop Internazionale's newly signed superstar Ronaldo, alluding to comments from opposing players that Ronaldo should be aware that Italian defenders are "meaner" than those he played against in Spain with Barcelona. "There are players who will give everything, and they will do anything," Baldas said in reaction to a brutal tackle on Ronaldo by Bologna defender Mauro Bonomi in a pre-season game last week. (Bonomi drove his cleats into Ronaldo's shin while simultaneously grabbing his genitals.) "From the very first minute of the match, we've got to use the whistle and the book to make people understand that they've got to kick the ball and not their opponents."

**Portugal:** FC Porto captain Jorge Costa ruptured a ligament in his left knee during training last week and will likely miss six months. It's the same knee he wrecked last year, which kept him out of the European Championships last summer.

**Wales:** The federation, which has spent



United Arab Emirates: national team

much of this year scouting around for a new national team coach, threw in the towel and extended coach Bobby Gould's contract for two years, even though Wales has already been eliminated from the World Cup. Sources said Gould, who ran into trouble after team members accused him of making racist remarks about Nathan Blake of Bolton, won over reluctant federation officials by apologizing and highlighting the progress he has made off the field in strengthening the Welsh youth setup. He got a boost when Blake changed his mind and rescinded his decision never to play for Gould again.

**Elsewhere**  
Australia: FIFA called on the federation, Soccer Australia, to suspend Sydney United, which had sued over pending moves to kick it out of the first division because of crowd violence. Soccer Australia Chairman David Hill said several weeks ago that if the federation determined that Sydney United could have prevented the violence that marred a decisive playoff game last May, it would likely relegate the team from the national league.

The club responded last week by winning a court injunction against such action. FIFA regulations, however, forbid clubs from taking disputes to the courts, and FIFA urged the federation to "immediately suspend" Sydney United and to take

any disciplinary action it "feels appropriate." Sydney United must be informed of the consequences for not complying with the statutes and regulations of the Australia Soccer (sic) and FIFA," FIFA said in an official communiqué.

**Iran:** Asian Player of the Year Khodadad Azizi will get his chance to strut his stuff in the big time after Piruzi agreed to sell him to Cologne of the German Bundesliga in a deal reported to be worth more than \$1 million, a record fee for a Iranian player. Iran, emerging from its post-revolutionary isolation, surprised Asian soccer followers with its third-place finish in last year's Asian Cup, thanks largely to the play of Azizi and Ali Daei, who also found a German stage when he signed recently for Arminia Bielefeld.

**United Arab Emirates:** The national team didn't show up for its exhibition against minor-league Bressanone in Brenner, Italy, over the weekend. The team has been training in Europe and set off as scheduled for Italy, where border guards refused it entry. It turns out that UAE officials didn't know you have to have a visa to enter Italy, and so they showed up without valid entry papers. The game was canceled. ■

LA Times-Washington Post News Service



Paris Saint Germain match